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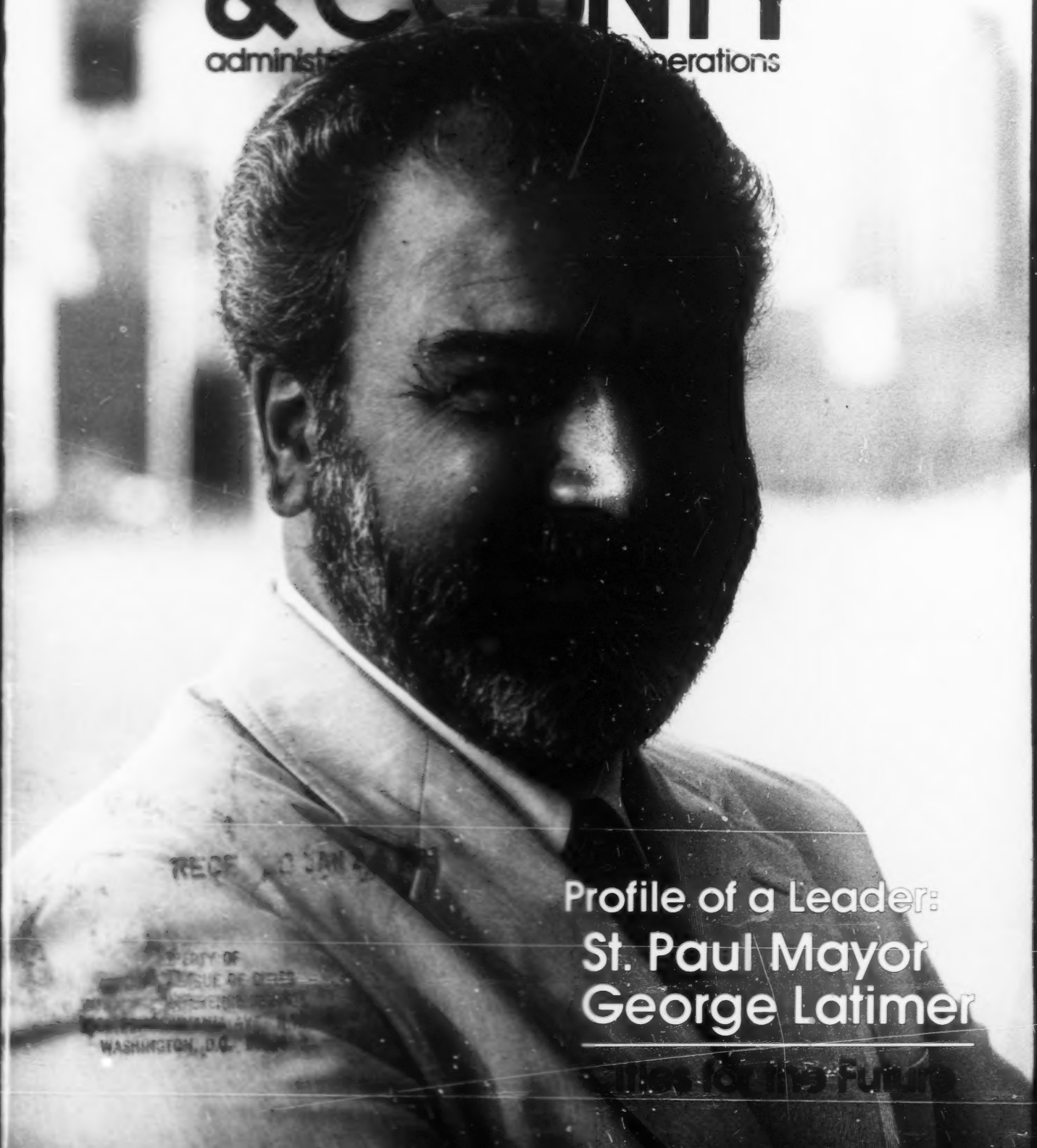

Profile of a Leader:
St. Paul Mayor George Latimer

...ies for the Future

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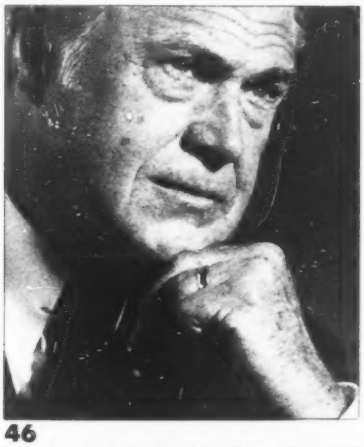

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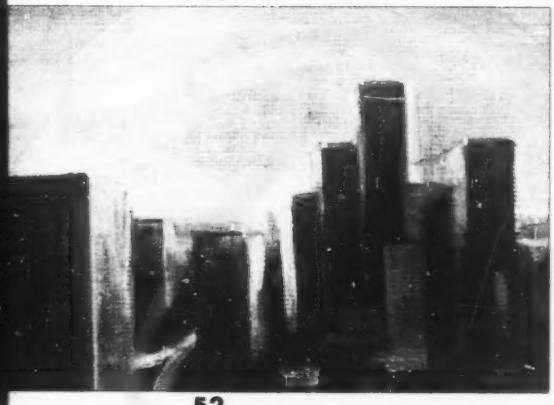

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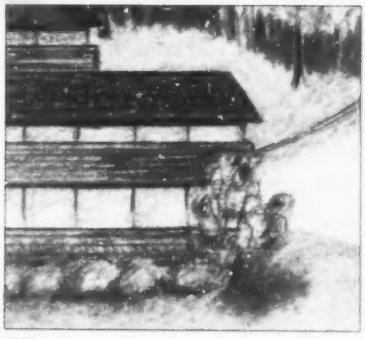

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About the Cover

St. Paul Mayor and National League of Cities President George Latimer discusses the problems and issues facing local governments in this month's premiere of our new regular feature, "Profile of a Leader," on page 38. (Photograph by Gerald Gustafson).

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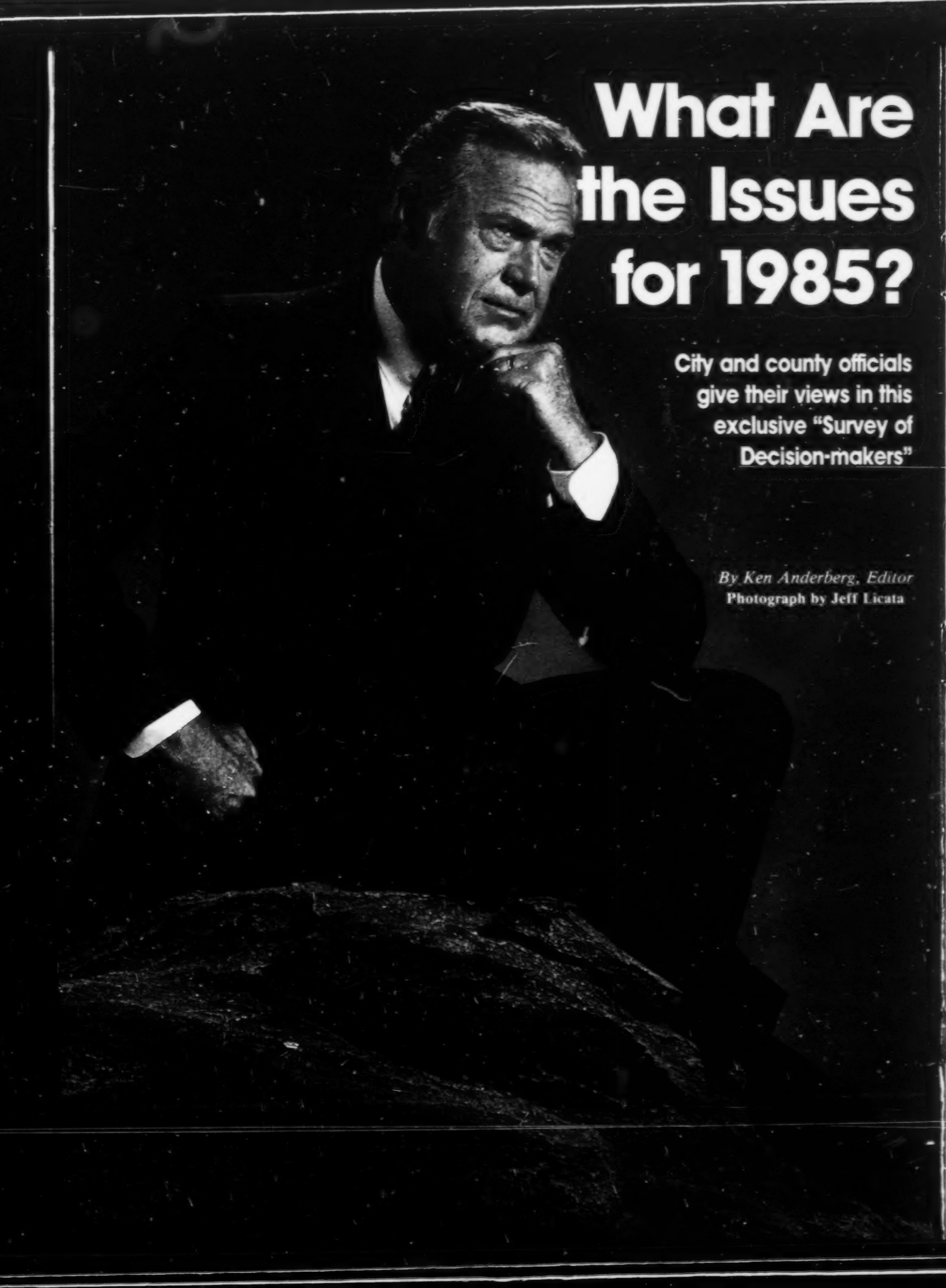

What Are the Issues for 1985?

City and county officials give their views in this exclusive "Survey of Decision-makers"

By Ken Anderberg, Editor
Photograph by Jeff Licata

When a pedestrian is struck to death by a severed suspension bridge cable, the problem of infrastructure repair can no longer be ignored. When a car disappears into the belly of a collapsed roadway, the public refuses to listen to reasons why potholes still rut city streets. And when wastewater treatment facilities invade a neighborhood with obnoxious odors while dumping untreated effluent in lakes and rivers, the need for action is undeniable.

While these problems are not necessarily the fault of the local governments involved, they are of overriding concern to the officials of those communities. Often, however, public officials feel as if their hands are tied. They know what needs to be done; they're more than willing to authorize the necessary work; but they don't have the money — or the public support to raise the funds — to repair their infrastructure problems.

The scope of the financial responsibility is staggering. A national study prepared for the Joint Economic Committee of the United States Congress, and released earlier this year, estimates that $1.157 trillion will be needed by the year 2000 to rehabilitate the nation's existing infrastructure and provide for new facilities necessitated by growth. However, current financial resources, according to the study, are expected to fall $443 billion short of projected needs for the next 16 years.

Included in the study are costs associated with the rehabilitation and construction of streets, highways, bridges, water supply systems, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, and mass transit. Not included, but also of significance, are the present and future costs for solid waste collection and disposal, airports, energy production and distribution systems, parks and recreation needs, traffic engineering networks, and public buildings such as offices and schools.

Congress is expected to address the infrastructure question in 1985 in what New Jersey Rep. James Howard predicts will be the "Infrastructure Congress." Howard chairs the House Public Works and Transportation Committee and is a champion of infrastructure-related programs. He has already submitted a bill to the House that would provide for a "National Infrastructure Bank," which would be authorized to make available $3 billion a year in interest-free loans to state and local governments for infrastructure repair and construction. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that Howard's 10-year proposal would generate $100 billion in infrastructure improvements.

Judging by the results of a national sampling of local government leaders, a "Survey of Decision-makers" conducted by *American City & County*, public officials would welcome financial help in the infrastructure dilemma. In the random poll, funding for infrastructure repair was clearly the top item on the "must do" lists of city and county decision-makers.

"Streets are deteriorating at a faster pace than we can adequately maintain them," says John Chmura, city administrator of Waterville, Maine, in a comment typical of survey responses. "Citizens and councilors expect miracles while (they're) not willing to spend the money needed."

Of the select group of mayors, city and town managers, and city and county administrators who participated in the *American City & County* survey, 78 percent listed at least one area of infrastructure renewal in what they considered the top three issues facing local governments in 1985. In addition, every decision-maker who answered the survey questionnaire included either infrastructure repair or financial considerations pertaining to infrastructure as chief problems in the year ahead. The survey indicates that financing needed public works projects and community services, particularly those that relate to the repair and expansion of streets, bridges, water and wastewater systems, is clearly the overwhelming concern of public officials.

The *American City & County* poll includes top officials in every section of the country, serving communities with populations of less than 10,000 to cities with 250,000 citizens. Without exception to location or size, public officials expressed the need to find solutions to the troublesome task of financing necessary services.

Several other issues appeared prominently in the survey, including economic development, improved employee relations, and antitrust and other legal matters. Topics that might have been expected to generate more interest, but did not, were the national budget deficit, education, dealing with the public, hazardous wastes and the impact of government regulations.

In addition to identifying the major issues facing local governments in 1985, respondents were asked to comment on the most pressing problems in particular areas, including streets and highways, wastewater collection and treatment, water supply, lighting and power, parks and recreation, solid waste collection and disposal, financing and office automation.

Streets and bridges

More than one-half of the nation's two million miles of streets and highways are currently in need of repair, according to the congressional infrastructure report. Also, nearly half of all bridges in this country require rehabilitation or replacement. Street, highway and bridge renewal, the report says, is the largest single area of infrastructure need, with an estimated price tag of $720 billion through the next two decades.

However, the congressional study also indicates that there will be a $265 billion shortfall of funds for this purpose. In addition, that report does not include the billions of dollars that local governments will require to repair their nearly three million miles of local roads.

The biggest problem, says Village Administrator M. Noftz of Milan, Ohio, is "keeping the streets safe and finding the money to keep them in good repair."

Madison, North Carolina, City Manager S.L. Routh agrees, citing the "continued deterioration (of city streets) with insufficient revenue to remedy the deterioration."

"We are in a time frame when much deterioration is occurring simultaneously," says Mayor Fred Delaney of Glenwood, Illinois, who is one of the many respondents to comment on the need for street maintenance and the problem of financing such repair.

Wastewater concerns

Depending on who's counting, local communities will need to spend from $120 billion to $165 billion in the next 16 years to bring wastewater collection and treatment facilities in compliance with federal and state regulations. Current revenue sources, says the congressional report, will fall $50 billion short of this total.

One alternative financial possibility that is already assisting communities with the construction of wastewater systems is privatization. This combination of public and private sector financing and responsibility is enabling communities like Chandler, Arizona, and Washoe County, Nevada, to build costly new wastewater treatment facilities while not weighting the community with heavy debt and burdensome taxes.

Another possible means of additional financing rests with Rep. Howard's infrastructure bank bill and other federal and state responses. But with the current national budget deficit situation

and the propensity to cut programs at the federal level, many programs currently funding infrastructure renewal have barely been able to maintain their current funding levels. Others have suffered from budget trimming. Few programs can expect to receive budget increases such as that given national defense spending.

The projected cost of building new wastewater systems notwithstanding, much of the financial need is in the areas of maintenance, operation and upgrading of existing networks. Many cities have installed expensive facilities but have not been able to meet required levels of treatment due to faulty equipment, poor planning, insufficiently trained personnel or unexpected industrial discharges.

Communities in the Northeast and Midwest, in particular, are concerned with maintenance and upgrading, while those in the Western and Sunbelt regions must contend with growing populations and necessary new systems. In addition, the *American City & County* survey indicates that public officials in all areas of the country are struggling to comply with federal and state discharge requirements, including the installation of tertiary treatment processes.

"Government regulations that require higher levels of treatment at tremendous cost" are the main problem, says Mayor R.R. Eardley of Boise, Idaho.

"Tertiary treatment requirements" are issues of concern for 1985, according to Administrative Director D. Hatcher of Columbia Station, Ohio, and City Manager John Kiracofe of Berkley, Michigan.

While federal and state regulations are requiring more expensive treatment, local governments are increasingly seeing the funding problems dumped in their laps. Federal and state governments are asking for more but giving less. That concern is echoed in this magazine's survey by Mayor James Janurin of Fort Dodge, Iowa, who notes the "lack of federal funds to comply with new regulations."

Water supply issues

A recent poll of water supply experts, conducted by the firm of Malcolm Pirnie, listed 24 top national water problems, with inadequate rates at the top of the rankings. There was general agreement among the 34 experts surveyed that because of existing rate structures, many communities are unable to raise the necessary capital to rehabilitate or expand water supply systems.

In the *American City & County* survey, rates and financing are also cited as significant problems, but the number one concern of respondents was in assuring an adequate supply of water in the future. Rates and financing, water quality, and maintenance and construction of facilities all rate evenly in the poll.

"The preservation of existing sources and the development of new sources" is the primary water issue, says a Rhode Island official who wished to remain anonymous.

"Larger supply reservoirs" are needed, says Borough Manager L.B. Ritter of Beavertown, Pennsylvania.

And City Manager Craig Hobler of Wellington, Kansas, cites the "overuse and pollution of underground water resources."

Nationally, estimates place the price tag for rehabilitating the nation's water supply and distribution systems at $100 billion. Among the problems communities now face are inadequate sources, overdrafting of underground aquifers such as the Ogallala Aquifer in Oklahoma and Texas, contamination of supplies and inadequate treatment facilities.

"Water will soon become a very serious problem for cities," says Mayor E. Gartrell of Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Other survey issues

● **Lighting and power** — Respondents to the survey are worried most about the rising cost of electricity, and the resulting higher rates to consumers. Many officials also mention nuclear energy as an issue in need of a solution, but few indicate concern about having adequate power supplies in the future.

● **Parks and recreation** — "As the population becomes more fitness conscious," says Waterville, Maine, Mayor Chmura, "we must develop facilities to meet their needs, as well as the needs of the elderly." His remarks reflect the general attitude of those participating in the survey, who argue in favor of more park and recreation areas, but express concern about how expansion and maintenance will be funded.

As Mayor M.A. Grajek of Hiram, Ohio, states, the main problem is "solving the dilemma of how to keep this area from being 'the easiest to cut expenses in.'"

● **Solid waste collection and disposal** — Developing new methods of disposal, including resource recovery facilities, is the leading priority of survey participants. Also listed prominently are the difficulties in locating suitable landfill sites and the problems of hazardous waste disposal and other environmental concerns. Surprisingly, the cost factor

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PROJECTED U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS, RESOURCES AND SHORTFALLS/ 1983-2000

(in billions of 1982 dollars)

	NEEDS	RESOURCES	SHORTFALLS
HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES	$ 720	$455	$265
OTHER TRANSPORTATION	178	90	88
WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION	96	55	41
WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT	163	114	49
TOTALS	$1,157	$714	$443

From the report to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress

of solid waste collection and disposal is not a key issue in the poll.

Among the survey responses came these comments:

"Landfill sites are filling rapidly and the prospect of new sites is dim," says Administrative Director Hatcher of Columbia Station, Ohio. "A new technology needs to be advanced, including improvement of the burning of solid wastes."

City Manager Kiracofe of Berkley, Michigan, says there is a need for development of "resource recovery, a shift from landfill to incineration and (the use of) privatization."

● **Office automation** — Keeping abreast of current technologies and the applications of those technologies is the chief interest in this area. Training and the cost of equipment are also mentioned.

"While the need is recognized, (these systems) must compete for dollars with numerous other interests," says County Administrator C.D. Balczun of Wausau, Wisconsin.

Adds Mayor Janurin of Fort Dodge, Iowa, "The technology is moving faster than we dreamed possible."

● **Public transit** — While there is no consensus of opinion on this topic, the primary suggestion is that more federal and state funds should be allocated for mass transit capital and operating needs. Higher gas taxes are offered as a way of raising more revenues.

"Allocate more gas tax dollars for state and local improvements," says City Manager B.W. Senkel of Punta Gorda, Florida.

"State and federal financial assistance" is needed, states City Manager Leslie Allen of Decatur, Illinois.

● **Health and human services** — While underscoring the necessity of these services, most survey respondents suggest that some form of cost reduction be implemented, whether it be by controlling doctor fees or promoting preventive medicine and wellness programs.

"It would appear that new programs to educate people as to their own health and social responsibilities is the only cost-effective way to improve health and human services," says Administrative Director Hatcher of Columbia Station. He adds that "many federal regulations, due to being outmoded, cause more problems than they solve."

● **Employee relations** — The poll indicates that most public officials realize the benefits of continued and improved training for employees at all levels. Better pay and fair treatment, with input encouraged from all employees, also rank high as methods to improve morale.

Often, says Mayor Grajek of Hiram, the fault for morale problems lies with management. "A big problem in a small municipality," he says, "is that many people in managerial positions have 'risen from the ranks' by default, and have little or no expertise in personnel management."

"Treat them (employees) as human beings and give them a fair wage," suggests Village Manager A.E. Wardingley of Columbiana, Ohio.

But employee problems may not always be the fault of management, says Waterville's Chmura. "Public employees need to discard the attitude of 'this is fine but it will not work in government.'"

Wide-ranging concerns

On other subjects, Assistant City Manager Driver of Harrisonburg, says:

"I feel that losing revenue sharing when the present appropriations expire, without some other form of help from the federal government, would be a big blow to many political subdivisions. We would not be hurt as much as some cities, but we would have to decrease capital outlay projects at a time when we are having a lot of growth."

And City Manager Kiracofe of Berkley offers:

"There is a great need at this time for strategic planning. This means looking at the mission and goals of your organization. What opportunities or threats exist? What changes, if any, need to be made? Management must be a combination of leader and administrator. Rather than looking at how things are, ask whether you are doing the right things. A leader institutes change; an administrator maintains stability."

Financial possibilities

With the key issues in the *American City & County* survey being infrastructure and how to finance public works projects and other public services, many respondents offered their choices of financial alternatives. Generally, those polled agree with City Manager Thomas Phillips of Raeford, North Carolina, who says that the greatest difficulty is the "increasing demand for services, (combined with) the inability of elected officials to obtain funds."

Where or how to obtain those funds drew a wide range of suggestions. Some officials advocate higher taxes or less restrictions on taxing authority. Others say that user fees should be implemented or increased to reflect the true cost of providing services.

Still others, like Columbia Station's Hatcher, suggest that "an innovative approach to financing needs to be developed to accomodate those services that are needed."

And, says Mayor Eardley of Boise, "simply finding the money to survive is the biggest issue. A change in state law to allow a broader base of taxation is needed."

Whatever the solutions, public officials make it clear in the *American City & County* "Survey of Decision-makers" that they are committed to providing the necessary services and maintaining and upgrading their infrastructure. But they also are asking for help — financial help — to get the job done, whether it be federal or state assistance or simply convincing their own citizens to loosen the purse strings.

Perhaps it's as easy as Punta Gorda, Florida, City Manager Senkel states. "The solution is to convince elected officials to develop the required policies to effect the required organization goals with the support of an enlightened public."

And then again, perhaps not....? □

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year	Last Month	This Month
313.2	333.0	333.3

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **6.4**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year	Last Month	This Month
346.8	364.7	365.2

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **5.3**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year	Last Month	This Month
300.3	311.7	313.0

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.4** Year **4.2**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year	Last Month	This Month
304.7	312.0	310.9

Percent Change From Last: Month **−0.4** Year **2.0**

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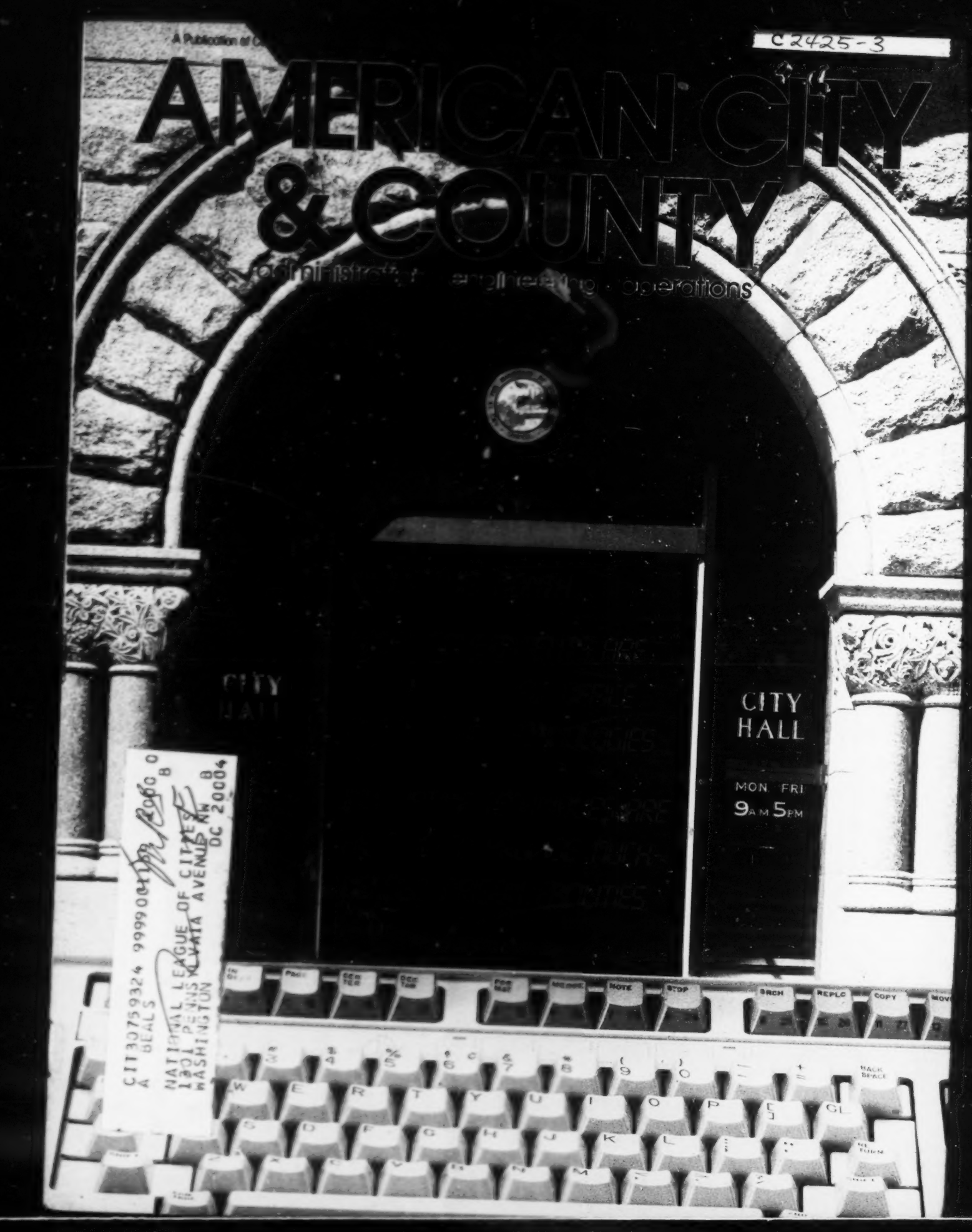

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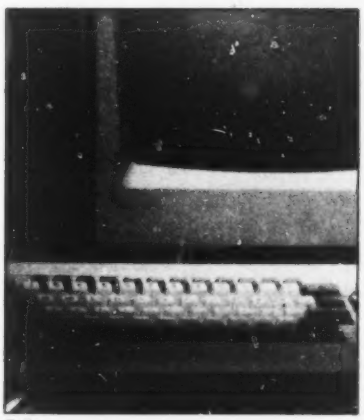

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About the Cover
As city and government offices become more automated, public officials must decide on which systems they will purchase, and for what purposes. (Photos courtesy of the Wang Corp.)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.1 percent for the month to 333.4, marking the eighth straight month that the local government buying index for products and services has increased. The **Consumer Price Index** showed the largest index change, rising 0.5 percent for the month. In other index action, the **Producer Price Index** decreased 0.4 percent, while the **ACC Construction Cost Index** remained stable at 365.2.

Commodities displaying the biggest price drops included: diesel fuel, foundry products, industrial chemicals, natural gas, passenger cars, plumbing fixtures, plywood and residual fuel. Meanwhile, state and local government total budget surpluses for the third quarter remained at the second quarter level of $53.9 billion. □

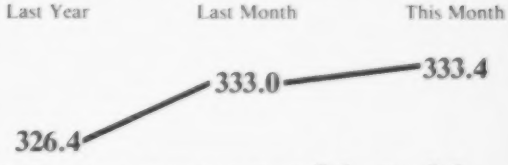
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	144.6	−0.1	1.2
Apparel	202.3	0.2	1.8
Asphalt Roofing	406.7	0.3	5.0
Books	127.7	0.3	4.5
Chemicals, Industrial	338.1	−1.1	− 2.2
Coal	549.6	−0.2	2.2
Concrete Products	311.4	0.0	2.6
Construction Machinery	359.0	0.1	1.6
Diesel Fuel	658.8	−2.3	− 5.2
Electric Components	194.8	0.9	4.2
Electric Lamps	332.0	−0.2	1.6
Electric Power	456.8	−0.1	6.8
Engines, I.C.	348.0	0.5	2.1
Fans, Blowers	351.6	0.1	4.1
Fertilizers, Mixed	265.0	−1.0	4.0
Floor Coverings	191.4	0.1	1.0
Flow Instruments	100.3	0.0	N/A
Footwear	252.1	0.5	0.2
Foundry Products	362.6	0.2	3.2
Fuel Oil No. 2	684.7	−2.7	− 7.2
Furniture, Commercial	298.5	0.0	3.9
Gasoline	550.4	−0.8	−11.2
Generator Sets	340.4	0.0	1.5
Glass	217.9	0.0	−5.1
Glass Containers	364.6	−0.4	3.8
Gypsum Products	356.1	0.9	19.6
Hardware	297.3	0.2	1.6
Heating Equipment	257.5	0.8	4.4
HVAC Controls	125.9	0.5	3.0
LP Gas	631.2	2.7	−11.7
Lubricants	369.3	0.2	5.6
Lumber	338.4	−0.1	N/A
Metal Fabrications	312.1	−0.1	2.6
Millwork	307.0	0.3	0.4
Motor Vehicle Parts	353.9	0.1	0.6
Mowers	260.3	0.4	2.7
Natural Gas	1432.4	−2.0	0.5
Office Machines	154.2	0.1	−0.1
Paint	277.4	0.4	4.9
Paper	306.7	−0.1	7.2
Passenger Cars	211.0	−4.7	1.5
Plumbing Fixtures	299.0	−1.4	2.3
Plywood	243.3	−1.4	0.5
Portland Cement	355.4	−0.5	2.2
Pumps	349.6	0.4	1.0
Residual Fuel	1119.4	−2.9	1.0
Sand, Gravel	298.4	0.3	5.3
Sanitary Papers	367.9	0.2	2.6
Soaps, Detergents	265.6	−0.6	− 0.3
Sporting Goods	206.3	0.0	0.5
Steel Mill Products	367.9	0.0	2.7
Struc. Clay Products	238.7	0.4	2.2
Switchgear	273.8	−0.3	− 0.1
Tires, Tubes	244.7	0.2	0.9
Transformers	228.5	0.2	1.6
Trucks	331.5	−1.0	10.1
Valves	102.8	0.1	3.0
Wire, Cable	201.0	−0.5	−1.6
Wiring Devices	357.0	0.2	6.1

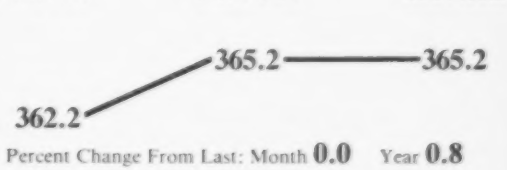
At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



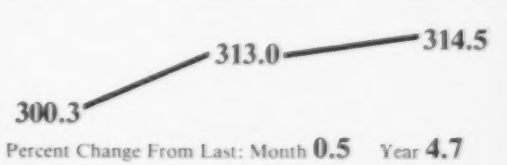
Percent Change From Last: Month 0.1 Year 2.1

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



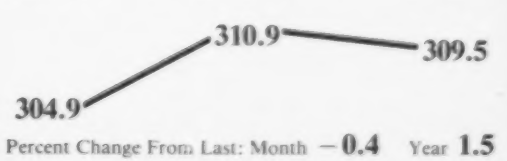
Percent Change From Last: Month 0.0 Year 0.8

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.5 Year 4.7

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month −0.4 Year 1.5

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	520.1B	2.1	9.8
Federal Grants	93.2B	2.9	8.0
Durable Purchases	15.1B	2.7	8.6
Consumables	34.1B	0.3	10.7
Services	345.2B	2.2	7.9
Structures	41.3B	5.6	4.6
Salaries, Wages	252.3B	2.1	7.9
Surplus	53.9B	0.0	22.8
Employment	13.123M	0.0	0.2

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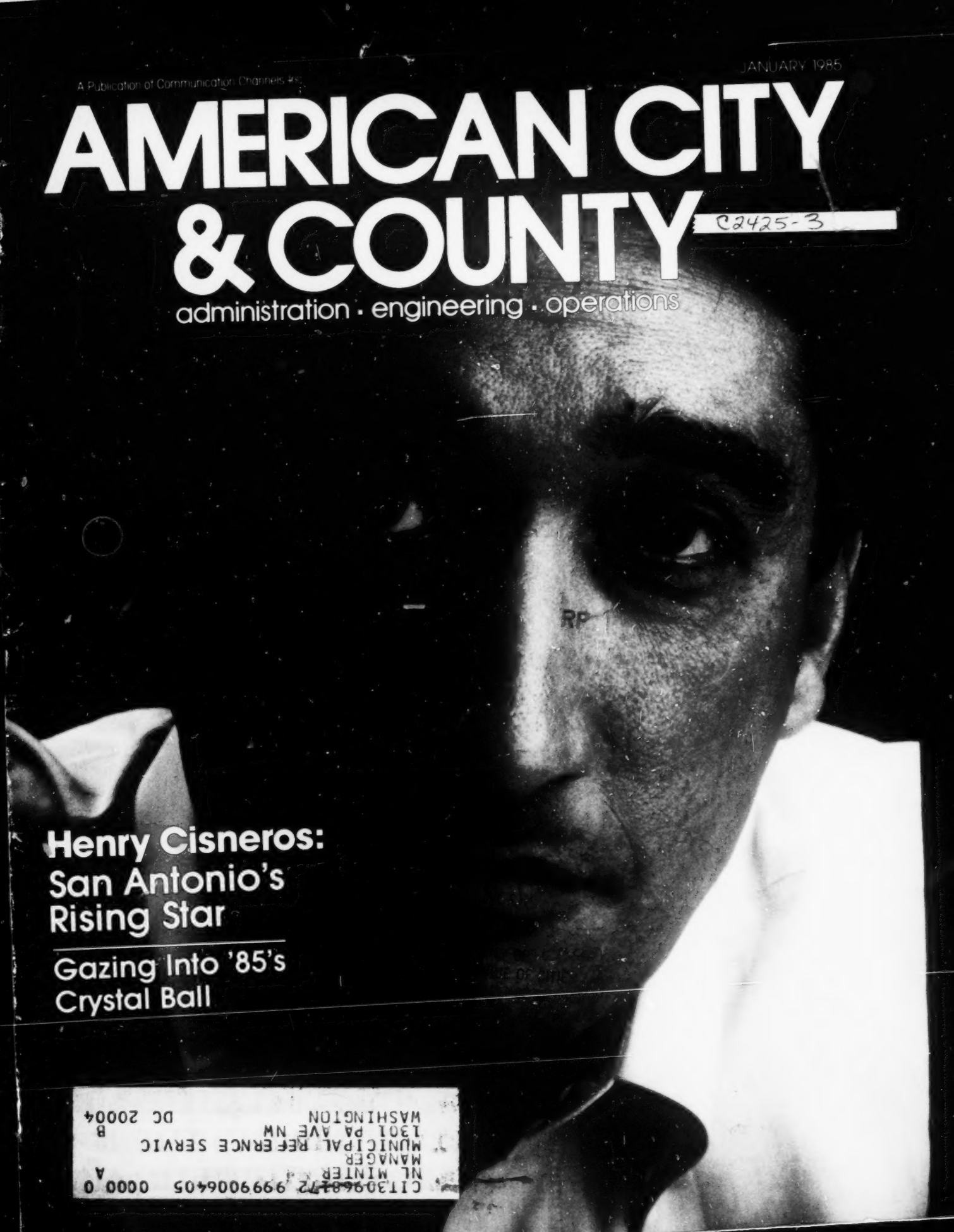

Henry Cisneros: San Antonio's Rising Star

Gazing Into '85's Crystal Ball

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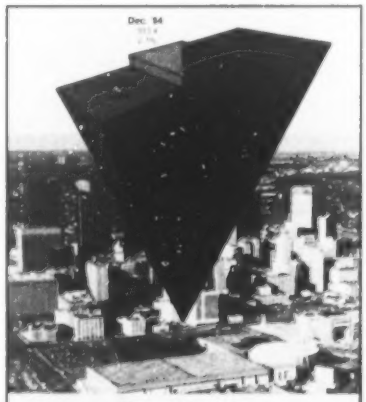
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About the Cover
Mayor Henry Cisneros of San Antonio, Texas, who is profiled this month, understands the interrelationship of local and national issues. (Photography by Oscar Williams)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** remained stable for the month at 333.4, as the **ACC Construction Cost Index** fell 0.1 percent and the **Producer Price Index** decreased to 309.4. The only index to rise was the **Consumer Price Index**, which jumped 0.3 percent.

In this month's marketbasket of industrial commodities, coal, electric power, gypsum products, lp gas and plywood lead the decliners. Meanwhile, books, electric lamps, fuel oil no. 2, gasoline, lumber and passenger cars showed the largest increases. □

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

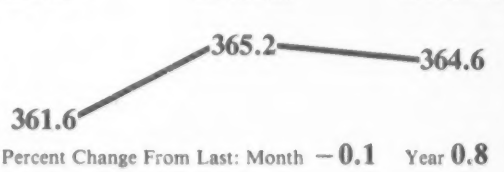
	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	144.6	0.0	1.4
Apparel	200.5	−0.9	0.9
Asphalt Roofing	410.3	0.9	5.8
Books	129.8	1.6	5.0
Chemicals, Industrial	336.4	−0.5	−2.5
Coal	543.7	−1.1	1.0
Concrete Products	311.5	0.0	2.7
Construction Machinery	359.1	0.0	1.6
Diesel Fuel	664.9	0.9	−6.8
Electric Components	195.8	0.5	4.8
Electric Lamps	336.0	1.2	2.8
Electric Power	445.8	−2.4	5.2
Engines, I.C.	347.1	−0.3	3.6
Fans, Blowers	351.5	0.0	4.5
Fertilizers, Mixed	264.1	−0.3	4.3
Floor Coverings	192.7	0.7	1.7
Flow Instruments	100.4	0.0	N/A
Footwear	252.2	0.0	0.4
Foundry Products	363.3	0.2	3.2
Fuel Oil No. 2	703.1	2.7	−6.2
Furniture	298.0	−0.2	3.7
Gasoline	560.6	1.9	−8.4
Generator Sets	343.1	0.8	2.3
Glass	218.0	0.0	−5.1
Glass Containers	364.8	0.1	4.2
Gypsum Products	339.4	−4.7	8.5
Hardware	299.0	0.6	2.2
Heating Equipment	258.2	0.3	5.3
HVAC Controls	125.4	−0.4	2.5
LP Gas	622.7	−1.3	−14.9
Lubricants	369.5	0.1	3.8
Lumber	350.5	3.6	N/A
Metal Fabrications	314.0	0.6	3.2
Millwork	306.6	−0.1	−0.3
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.4	0.1	0.7
Mowers	260.4	0.0	2.6
Natural Gas	1428.6	−0.3	3.1
Office Machines	154.0	−0.1	−0.3
Paint	278.1	0.3	5.3
Paper	308.0	0.4	7.2
Passenger Cars	222.6	5.5	0.3
Plumbing Fixtures	300.6	0.5	2.7
Plywood	240.1	−1.4	−2.6
Portland Cement	354.2	−0.3	2.1
Pumps	350.4	0.2	1.4
Residual Fuel	1113.2	−0.6	−0.6
Sand, Gravel	297.8	−0.2	5.0
Sanitary Papers	368.8	0.2	2.7
Soaps, Detergents	265.7	0.0	−0.4
Sporting Goods	206.4	0.0	−0.3
Steel Mill Products	368.9	0.3	2.3
Struc. Clay Products	288.8	0.0	1.9
Switchgear	274.5	0.3	0.3
Tires, Tubes	245.8	0.4	1.3
Transformers	228.1	−0.2	2.5
Trucks	331.1	−0.1	3.4
Valves	102.8	0.0	3.1
Wire, Cable	200.9	0.0	−1.3
Wiring Devices	357.3	0.1	5.6

At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

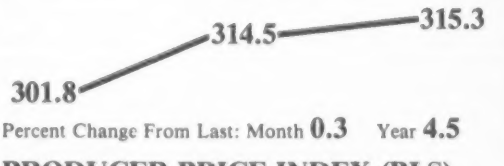
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.0** Year **2.1**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



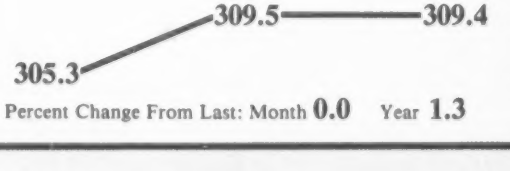
Percent Change From Last: Month **−0.1** Year **0.8**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **4.5**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.0** Year **1.3**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	520.1B	2.1	9.8
Federal Grants	93.2B	2.9	8.0
Durable Purchases	15.1B	2.7	8.6
Consumables	34.1B	0.3	10.7
Services	345.2B	2.2	7.9
Structures	41.3B	5.6	4.6
Salaries, Wages	252.3B	1.7	7.0
Surplus	53.9B	0.8	25.8
Employment	13.121M	0.0	0.2

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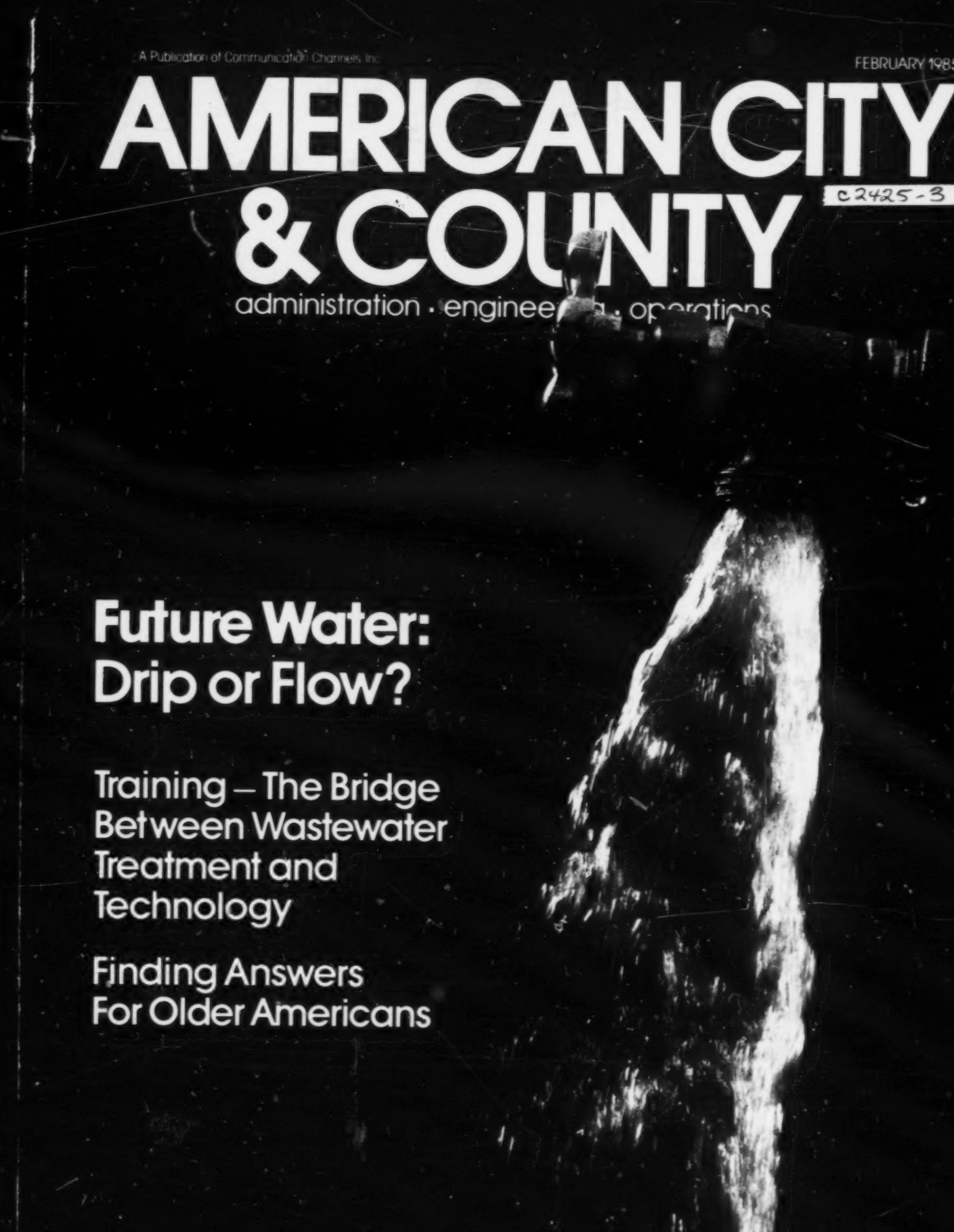

Future Water: Drip or Flow?

Training – The Bridge Between Wastewater Treatment and Technology

Finding Answers For Older Americans

A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc

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February 1985 Vol. 100, No. 2

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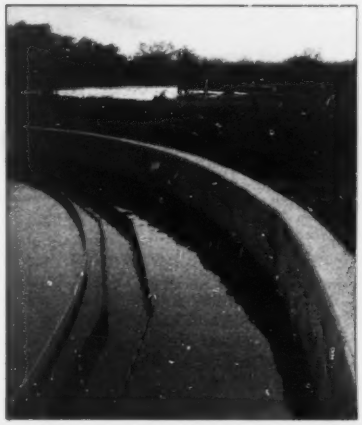

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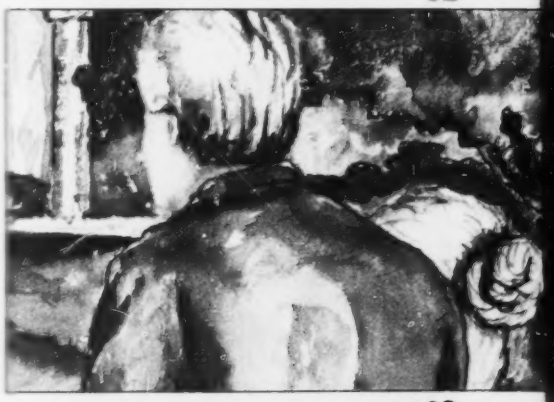

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About the Cover

The concerns of small water systems were identified in a national poll as one of the chief issues challenging water suppliers. A report on that topic begins on page 34. (Photo by Geogiana Silk, courtesy of Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

As a result of a 0.2 percent decrease in the **ACC Construction Cost Index**, no change in the **Consumer Price Index**, and a 0.3 percent increase in the **Producer Price Index**, the **Municipal Cost Index** remained steady at 333.3 for the month. The rise in the Producer Price Index marked that index's first gain in four months.

The increase in the Producer Price Index commodities was lead by diesel fuel, electric lamps, fuel oil no. 2, Portland cement, residual fuel, and soaps and detergents. Among the commodities' leading decliners were floor coverings, gypsum products, lumber and plywood. □

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	144.4	−0.1	1.2
Apparel	201.6	0.5	1.1
Asphalt Roofing	410.6	0.1	5.9
Books	129.6	−0.2	4.4
Chemicals, Industrial	334.7	−0.5	−3.3
Coal	546.4	0.5	0.8
Concrete Products	311.4	0.0	2.4
Construction Machinery	360.1	0.3	1.8
Diesel Fuel	677.5	1.9	−4.3
Electric Components	196.7	0.5	5.1
Electric Lamps	340.7	1.4	4.1
Electric Power	443.4	−0.5	5.9
Engines, I.C.	347.7	0.2	3.3
Fans, Blowers	351.5	0.0	4.5
Fertilizers, Mixed	263.6	−0.2	1.1
Floor Coverings	189.2	−1.8	− 0.1
Flow Instruments	100.4	0.1	N/A
Footwear	249.1	−1.2	− 0.9
Foundry Products	362.5	−0.2	2.7
Fuel Oil No. 2	714.2	1.6	−3.3
Furniture, Commercial	301.0	1.0	3.8
Gasoline	564.1	0.6	−5.8
Generator Sets	341.7	−0.4	1.7
Glass	217.4	−0.3	−5.5
Glass Containers	364.9	0.0	4.1
Gypsum Products	332.3	−2.1	5.5
Hardware	299.1	0.0	2.0
Heating Equipment	256.3	−0.7	4.4
HVAC Controls	124.2	−1.0	2.0
LP Gas	615.3	−1.2	−12.7
Lubricants	369.9	0.1	1.1
Lumber	342.6	−2.3	N/A
Metal Fabrications	313.0	−0.3	2.5
Millwork	309.8	1.9	0.6
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.7	0.1	0.8
Mowers	259.5	−0.3	1.8
Natural Gas	1424.8	−0.3	2.4
Office Machines	154.0	0.0	−0.3
Paint	277.0	−0.4	4.7
Paper	308.2	0.1	6.8
Passenger Cars	223.0	0.2	0.5
Plumbing Fixtures	301.4	0.3	2.5
Plywood	235.0	−2.1	−3.9
Portland Cement	359.0	1.4	5.4
Pumps	354.3	1.1	2.5
Residual Fuel	1131.7	1.7	0.6
Sand, Gravel	297.3	−0.2	4.4
Sanitary Papers	372.4	1.0	3.5
Soaps, Detergents	269.4	1.4	0.9
Sporting Goods	206.4	0.0	0.3
Steel Mill Products	368.1	−0.2	2.4
Struc. Clay Products	288.9	0.0	1.7
Switchgear	274.9	0.1	0.6
Tires, Tubes	243.9	−0.8	0.6
Transformers	228.9	0.4	3.2
Trucks	331.1	0.0	4.2
Valves	102.8	0.0	2.8
Wire, Cable	201.4	0.2	−0.1
Wiring Devices	360.5	0.9	6.3

At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year 327.2 — Last Month 333.4 — This Month 333.3

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.0** Year **1.9**

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year 361.5 — Last Month 364.6 — This Month 363.7

Percent Change From Last: Month **−0.2** Year **0.6**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 302.6 — Last Month 315.3 — This Month 315.3

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.0** Year **4.2**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 306.3 — Last Month 309.4 — This Month 310.4

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **1.3**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	520.1B	2.1	9.8
Federal Grants	93.2B	2.9	8.0
Durable Purchases	15.1B	2.7	8.6
Consumables	34.1B	0.3	10.7
Services	345.2B	2.2	7.9
Structures	41.3B	5.6	4.6
Salaries, Wages	252.3B	2.1	7.9
Surplus	53.9B	0.0	22.8
Employment	13.123M	0.0	0.2

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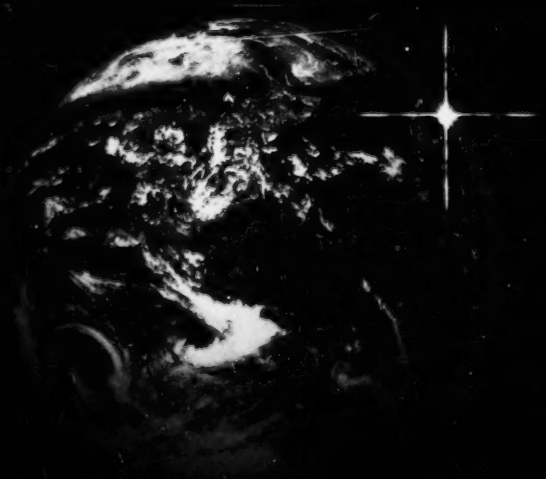

The Software Revolution

Awards of Merit Honor 11 Cities

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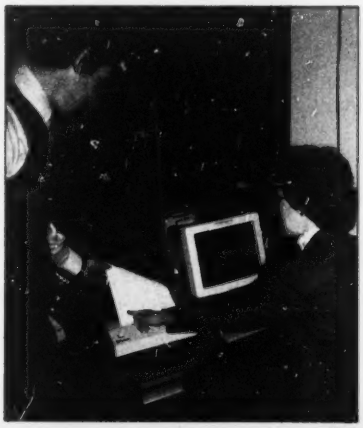

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About the Cover

The expansion and specialization of computer software and the emergence of microcomputer systems now bring true office automation to the local government level. (Photo by David Dobbs)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.1 percent for the month to 333.6, due largely to a 0.2 percent increase in the **Construction Cost Index** and a 0.1 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index**. The **Producer Price Index** was the only index not showing an increase, falling 0.2 percent to 309.9.

Within the **Producer Price Index**, commodities showing the largest decreases include diesel fuel, fuel oil no. 2, gasoline, gypsum products, lp gas and mixed fertilizers. In quarterly municipal trends, federal grants to local governments decreased 1.2 percent for the quarter, while local government surplus decreased 1.6 percent. □

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	144.5	0.1	0.8
Apparel	201.8	0.1	1.4
Asphalt Roofing	412.0	0.3	7.2
Books	130.1	0.4	4.7
Chemicals, Industrial	335.2	0.1	−4.0
Coal	548.2	0.3	0.8
Concrete Products	312.1	0.2	2.6
Construction Machinery	358.2	−0.5	1.3
Diesel Fuel	670.2	−1.1	−4.6
Electric Components	196.9	0.1	4.7
Electric Lamps	341.6	0.3	3.1
Electric Power	441.2	−0.5	5.7
Engines, I.C.	344.7	−0.9	2.5
Fans, Blowers	351.5	0.0	4.5
Fertilizers, Mixed	261.1	−0.9	0.1
Floor Coverings	189.3	0.1	− 0.1
Flow Instruments	100.4	0.0	N/A
Footwear	249.6	0.2	− 0.3
Foundry Products	363.1	0.2	2.9
Fuel Oil No. 2	695.4	−2.6	−4.7
Furniture	299.8	−0.4	3.6
Gasoline	554.5	−1.7	−5.5
Generator Sets	342.2	0.1	1.8
Glass	218.1	0.3	−5.1
Glass Containers	364.1	−0.2	3.9
Gypsum Products	329.3	−0.9	2.1
Hardware	300.2	0.4	2.3
Heating Equipment	256.4	0.0	4.4
HVAC Controls	124.9	0.6	3.7
LP Gas	606.5	−1.4	−11.3
Lubricants	370.2	0.1	0.9
Lumber	339.6	−0.1	N/A
Metal Fabrications	313.2	0.1	2.4
Millwork	312.5	0.9	1.3
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.1	−0.2	0.5
Mowers	260.1	−0.2	2.4
Natural Gas	1417.3	−0.5	1.2
Office Machines	153.0	−0.6	−1.6
Paint	277.3	0.1	4.7
Paper	307.1	−0.4	6.2
Passenger Cars	223.4	0.2	0.6
Plumbing Fixtures	302.7	0.4	3.0
Plywood	235.8	0.3	−4.6
Portland Cement	359.3	0.1	6.1
Pumps	352.2	−0.6	1.6
Residual Fuel	1129.8	−0.2	1.8
Sand, Gravel	296.8	−0.2	3.8
Sanitary Papers	371.9	−0.1	3.3
Soaps, Detergents	270.5	0.4	3.5
Sporting Goods	206.1	−0.1	0.5
Steel Mill Products	368.0	0.0	2.2
Struc. Clay Products	289.0	0.0	1.7
Switchgear	274.7	−0.1	0.5
Tires, Tubes	243.7	−0.1	0.6
Transformers	229.3	0.2	3.1
Trucks	331.2	0.0	4.2
Valves	102.8	0.0	2.8
Wire, Cable	201.2	−0.1	−0.2
Wiring Devices	344.9	−0.3	3.3

At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year 326.5 | Last Month 333.3 | This Month 333.6

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.1 Year 2.2

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year 359.8 | Last Month 363.7 | This Month 364.6

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 1.3

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 303.1 | Last Month 315.3 | This Month 315.5

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.1 Year 4.1

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 305.6 | Last Month 310.4 | This Month 309.9

Percent Change From Last: Month −0.2 Year 1.4

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	523.3B	0.5	7.7
Federal Grants	92.1B	−1.2	6.2
Durable Purchases	14.3B	2.1	6.7
Consumables	36.9B	1.7	10.1
Services	360.0B	2.0	8.6
Structures	48.0B	8.6	13.5
Salaries, Wages	263.0B	1.8	8.0
Surplus	45.8B	−1.6	−3.4
Employment	13.315M	0.3	1.6

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APRIL 1985

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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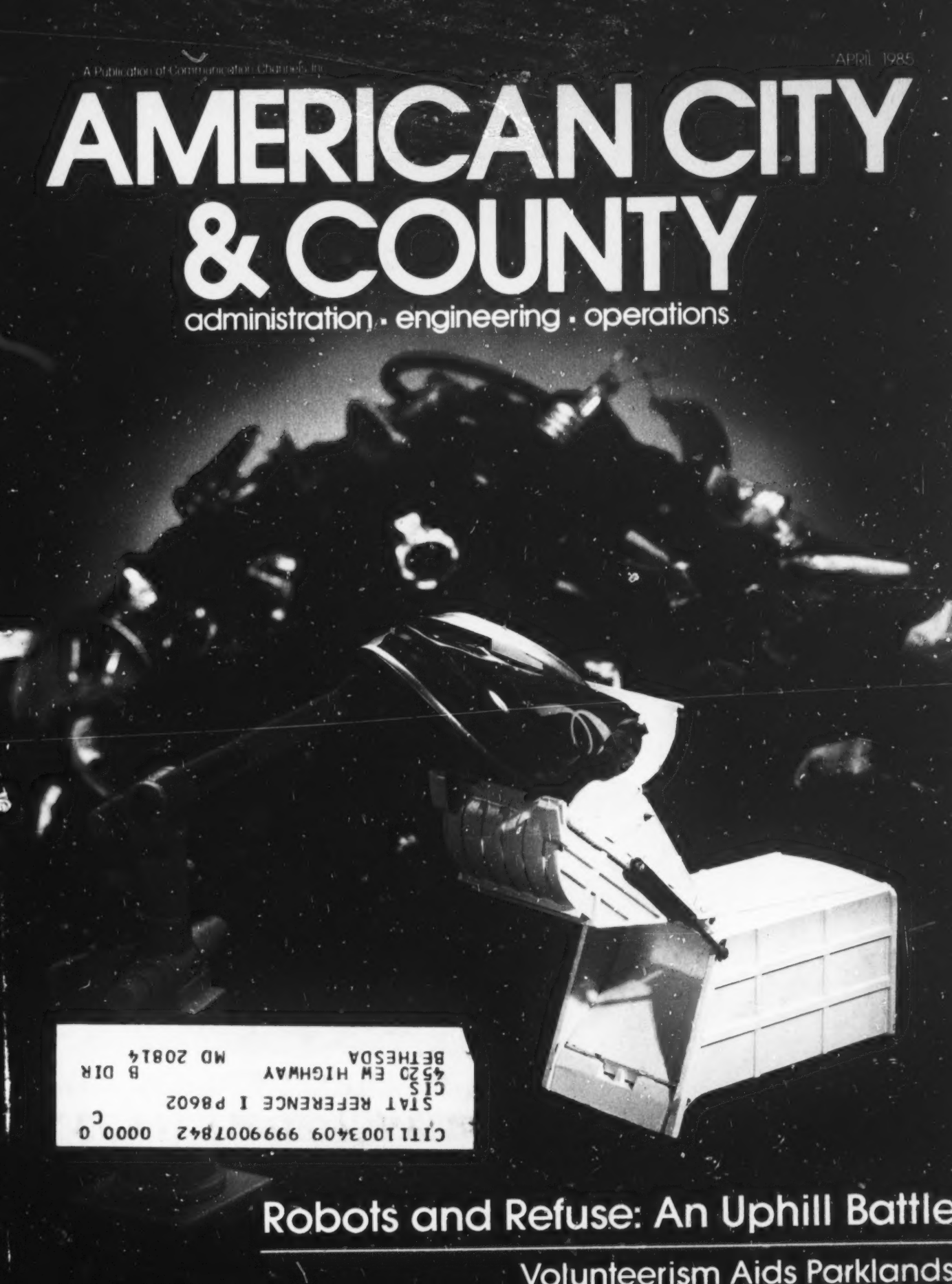

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Robots and Refuse: An Uphill Battle

Volunteerism Aids Parklands

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April 1985 Vol. 100, No. 4

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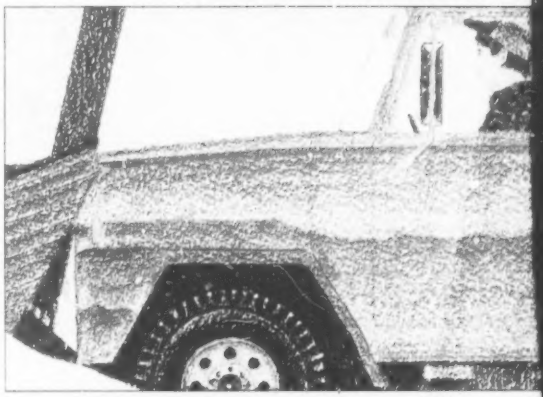

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Automated refuse collection has gained only grudging acceptance in the United States in the last 15 years, despite many success stories. A look at this controversial subject begins on page 32. (Photo by Jeff Licata)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.1 percent for the month to 333.8 as a result of a 0.1 percent increase in the **Construction Cost Index** and a 0.2 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index**. The **Producer Price Index** remained stable at 309.8.

Commodities showing the largest increases in this month's marketbasket include electric power, floor coverings, glass, passenger cars, sand and gravel, and wiring devices. Among the leading decliners were diesel fuel, fuel oil no. 2, gasoline, lp gas, natural gas and steel mill products. □

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	145.1	0.4	1.6
Apparel	202.6	0.4	2.1
Asphalt Roofing	409.9	−0.5	7.7
Books	130.8	0.5	6.1
Chemicals, Industrial	337.7	0.7	−2.1
Coal	550.5	0.4	1.5
Concrete Products	312.1	0.0	2.7
Construction Machinery	358.2	0.0	1.3
Diesel Fuel	662.2	−1.2	−5.5
Electric Components	197.9	0.5	5.2
Electric Lamps	339.6	−0.6	2.5
Electric Power	446.4	1.2	6.9
Engines, I.C.	345.7	0.3	1.0
Fans, Blowers	357.0	1.6	6.3
Fertilizers, Mixed	260.2	−0.3	0.5
Floor Coverings	192.7	1.8	2.6
Flow Instruments	99.9	−0.5	N/A
Footwear	252.4	1.1	0.4
Foundry Products	363.6	0.1	3.0
Fuel Oil No. 2	679.7	−2.3	−6.8
Furniture, Commercial	300.1	0.1	3.3
Gasoline	531.3	−4.2	−9.6
Generator Sets	348.9	2.0	−0.6
Glass	233.4	7.0	1.5
Glass Containers	363.7	−0.1	3.6
Gypsum Products	328.5	−0.2	2.1
Hardware	301.9	0.6	3.4
Heating Equipment	256.6	0.1	4.5
HVAC Controls	125.7	0.6	4.3
LP Gas	581.8	−4.1	−16.3
Lubricants	372.0	0.5	1.6
Lumber	343.2	−0.1	N/A
Metal Fabrications	312.8	−0.1	2.6
Millwork	312.4	0.0	1.3
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.9	0.2	1.0
Mowers	260.3	0.1	2.5
Natural Gas	1391.4	−1.8	−0.8
Office Machines	153.7	0.5	−0.7
Paint	278.2	0.3	5.0
Paper	307.0	0.0	6.3
Passenger Cars	227.2	1.7	2.3
Plumbing Fixtures	306.4	−0.2	4.4
Plywood	234.0	−0.7	−5.3
Portland Cement	358.3	−0.3	5.2
Pumps	353.2	0.3	2.2
Residual Fuel	1127.8	−0.2	−6.1
Sand, Gravel	300.8	1.3	4.2
Sanitary Papers	372.8	0.2	3.6
Soaps, Detergents	271.1	0.2	1.5
Sporting Goods	206.1	0.0	−0.3
Steel Mill Products	367.4	−1.2	−1.0
Struc. Clay Products	289.0	0.0	1.9
Switchgear	275.6	0.3	2.3
Tires, Tubes	245.1	0.6	0.9
Transformers	229.9	0.3	2.7
Trucks	331.2	0.0	4.2
Valves	103.6	0.8	3.5
Wire, Cable	201.2	0.0	−0.2
Wiring Devices	359.9	4.5	5.3

At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year 326.7 | Last Month 333.6 | This Month 333.8

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **2.2**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year 361.6 | Last Month 364.6 | This Month 364.8

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **0.9**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 301.8 | Last Month 315.5 | This Month 316.1

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.2** Year **4.7**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 305.3 | Last Month 309.9 | This Month 309.8

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.0** Year **1.5**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	273.3B	0.5	7.7
Federal Grants	92.1B	−1.3	6.2
Durable Purchases	14.3B	2.1	6.7
Consumables	36.9B	1.7	10.1
Services	368.0B	2.0	8.6
Structures	48.0B	8.6	13.5
Salaries, Wages	263.0B	1.8	8.0
Surplus	45.8B	−1.6	−3.4
Employment	13.315M	0.3	1.6

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MAY 1985

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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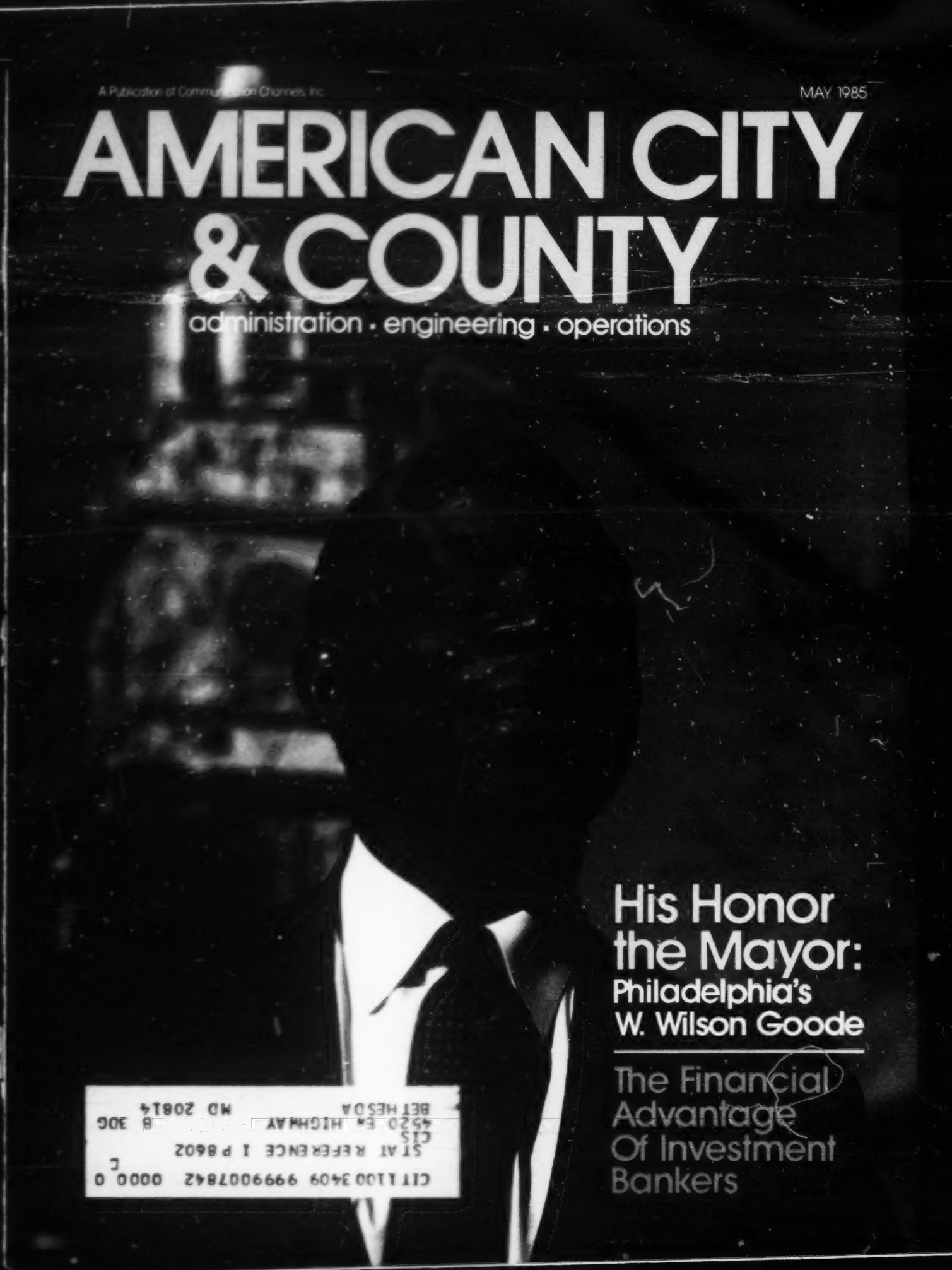

His Honor the Mayor: Philadelphia's W. Wilson Goode

The Financial Advantage Of Investment Bankers

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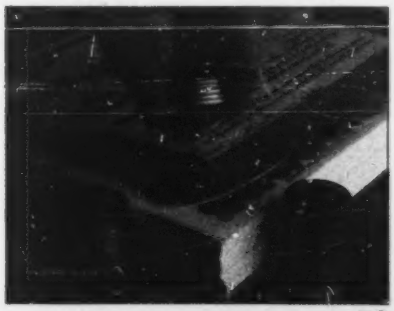

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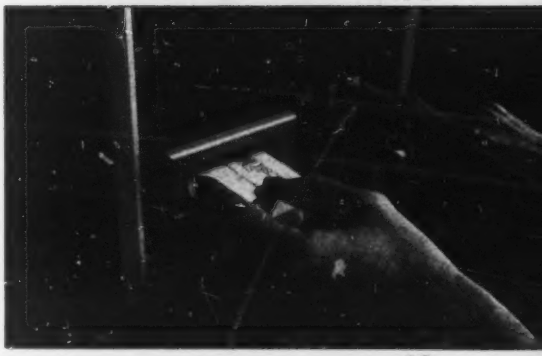

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About the Cover

This month's "Profile of a Leader" focuses on Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode (shown here in front of Independence Hall) and his efforts to revive one of this country's most notable cities. (Photo by Philadelphia City Representative's Office)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.1 percent for the month to 334.3. The rise in the index was due largely to a 0.1 percent increase in the **Construction Cost Index** and a 0.4 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index.**

The **Producer Price Index** was the only index to decrease, falling 0.2 percent. Among the Producer Price Index commodities showing the largest decreases were diesel fuel, fuel oil no. 2, gasoline, lp gas, plywood, residual fuel and tires. Commodities with the biggest gains were footwear, natural gas, sand and gravel, transformers, and wire and cable. □

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	145.4	0.2	1.5
Apparel	180.0	0.3	0.3
Asphalt Roofing	488.3	−0.4	4.1
Books	131.2	0.3	4.6
Chemicals, Industrial	336.4	−0.4	−0.4
Coal	550.1	−0.1	1.0
Concrete Products	314.3	−0.2	2.7
Construction Machinery	361.7	0.4	1.6
Diesel Fuel	645.2	−2.6	−9.2
Electric Components	198.6	0.4	4.3
Electric Lamps	342.8	0.9	3.2
Electric Power	446.4	0.0	5.3
Engines, I.C.	346.6	0.3	2.5
Fans, Blowers	357.4	0.1	4.6
Fertilizers, Mixed	258.5	−0.7	−3.8
Floor Coverings	191.1	−0.8	1.4
Flow Instruments	99.9	0.0	N/A
Footwear	256.6	1.7	1.6
Foundry Products	363.5	0.0	2.0
Fuel Oil No. 2	679.7	−3.4	−14.4
Furniture	302.3	0.7	2.6
Gasoline	531.3	−4.3	−9.7
Generator Sets	348.5	−0.1	3.2
Glass	220.9	0.0	−3.9
Glass Containers	364.2	0.1	3.9
Gypsum Products	330.2	0.5	−2.7
Hardware	302.5	0.2	2.9
Heating Equipment	257.4	0.3	3.7
HVAC Controls	126.0	0.2	3.7
LP Gas	532.4	−8.5	−19.2
Lubricants	372.0	−0..	9.6
Lumber	342.9	0.0	N/A
Metal Fabrications	313.3	0.2	2.1
Millwork	311.5	−0.3	0.9
Motor Vehicle Parts	353.9	−0.3	0.3
Mowers	260.4	0.0	1.5
Natural Gas	1391.4	1.9	8.4
Office Machines	153.7	0.0	−0.1
Paint	279.0	0.3	4.4
Paper	304.7	−0.7	2.7
Passenger Cars	227.2	0.0	2.4
Plumbing Fixtures	307.1	0.2	3.6
Plywood	226.6	−3.2	−9.2
Portland Cement	360.5	0.6	4.5
Residual Fuel	1197.3	−1.8	1.3
Sand, Gravel	304.2	1.1	4.7
Sanitary Papers	374.5	0.5	3.4
Soaps, Detergents	271.3	0.1	1.3
Sporting Goods	206.9	0.2	1.0
Steel Mill Products	367.2	−0.1	1.0
Struc. Clay Products	291.0	0.1	2.6
Switchgear	276.0	0.1	0.3
Tires, Tubes	240.8	−1.8	−1.2
Transformers	233.1	1.4	4.5
Trucks	331.8	0.2	1.6
Valves	104.1	0.5	3.5
Wire, Cable	204.3	1.5	0.9
Wiring Devices	359.6	−0.1	4.1

At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year 328.9 | Last Month 333.8 | This Month 334.3

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **1.6**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year 360.7 | Last Month 364.8 | This Month 365.3

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **1.3**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 306.6 | Last Month 316.1 | This Month 317.4

Percent Change From Last: Month **0.4** Year **3.5**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 308.8 | Last Month 309.8 | This Month 309.2

Percent Change From Last: Month **−0.2** Year **0.1**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	524.6B	0.8	7.9
Federal Grants	95.8B	4.0	10.8
Durable Purchases	14.5B	1.4	6.6
Consumables	37.5B	1.6	9.6
Services	367.3B	1.9	8.6
Structures	47.3B	0.0	21.3
Salaries, Wages	267.8B	1.8	7.9
Surplus	47.6B	−12.7	0.4
Employment	13.330M	0.0	1.7

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JUNE 1985

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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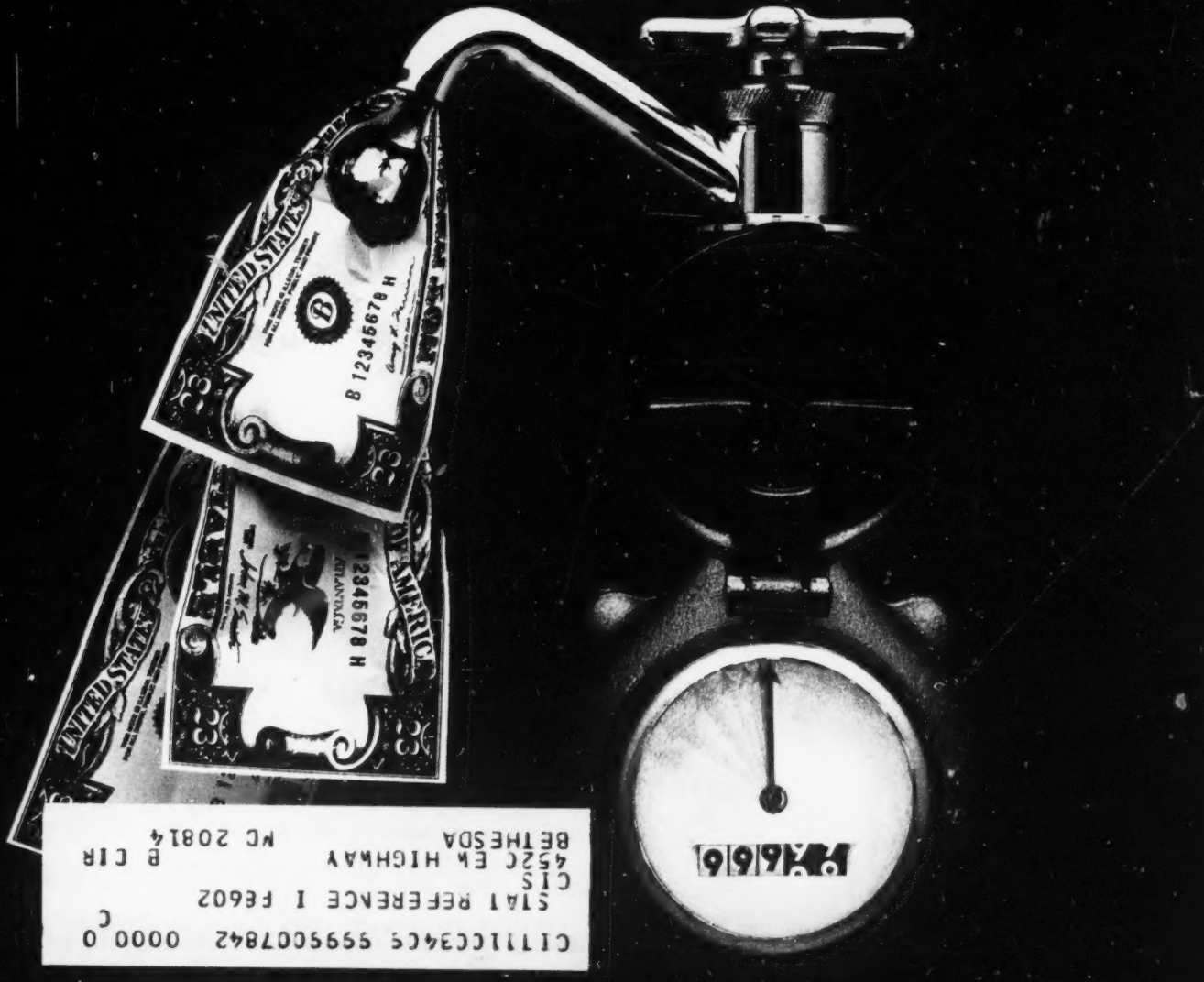

Rates and Remotes Guide Water's Future

User Fees: The Next Move?

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June 1985 Vol. 100, No. 6

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About the Cover

Water rates and the new technology of remote meter reading are important elements in current water supply debates. A discussion of both begins on page 28. (Photography by Jeff Licata; water meter courtesy of Rockwell International.)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.1 percent for the month to 334.7, due largely to a 0.1 percent increase in the **Construction Cost Index** and a 0.4 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index**.

The **Producer Price Index** was the only index to decrease for the month, falling 0.2 percent to 308.7 — the lowest mark since April 1984. Commodities showing the largest decrease in the **Producer Price Index** included diesel fuel, gypsum products, HVAC controls and natural gas. □

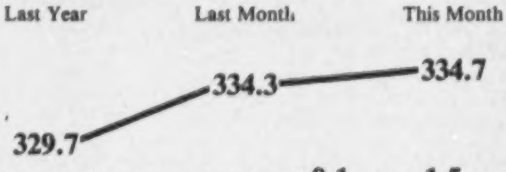
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	146.7	0.9	2.2
Apparel	180.9	0.5	1.0
Asphalt Roofing	404.6	−0.9	4.9
Books	131.2	0.0	4.3
Chemicals, Industrial	336.8	0.1	−2.3
Coal	549.3	−0.1	0.6
Concrete Products	315.0	0.2	2.8
Construction Machinery	361.8	0.0	1.8
Diesel Fuel	636.7	−1.3	−13.5
Electric Components	198.6	0.0	4.4
Electric Lamps	340.6	−0.6	−0.3
Electric Power	448.0	0.4	5.0
Engines, I.C.	346.6	0.0	2.9
Fans, Blowers	357.3	0.0	4.5
Fertilizers, Mixed	259.3	0.3	−4.2
Floor Coverings	192.1	0.5	2.0
Flow Instruments	99.0	0.0	N/A
Footwear	255.5	−0.4	0.8
Foundry Products	364.1	0.2	1.5
Fuel Oil No. 2	663.0	0.9	−15.9
Furniture	303.5	0.4	3.0
Gasoline	516.6	1.7	−9.0
Generator Sets	350.1	0.5	3.6
Glass	221.2	0.1	−3.4
Glass Containers	370.7	1.8	5.4
Gypsum Products	320.9	−2.8	−5.5
Hardware	304.0	0.5	3.3
Heating Equipment	257.3	0.0	3.5
HVAC Controls	124.2	−1.4	2.0
LP Gas	530.2	−0.4	−17.2
Lubricants	370.8	0.1	0.4
Lumber	345.0	0.2	N/A
Metal Fabrications	314.3	0.3	1.9
Millwork	309.9	−0.5	0.0
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.0	0.0	0.2
Mowers	260.4	0.0	1.6
Natural Gas	1381.9	−2.5	0.2
Office Machines	153.8	0.1	−0.3
Paint	279.7	0.3	4.6
Paper	303.7	−0.3	1.3
Passenger Cars	227.0	−0.1	2.2
Plumbing Fixtures	307.9	0.3	2.7
Plywood	223.7	−1.3	−10.0
Portland Cement	361.8	0.4	2.0
Residual Fuel	1112.6	0.5	−0.1
Sand, Gravel	305.0	0.3	4.7
Sanitary Papers	374.2	−0.1	3.1
Soaps, Detergents	273.2	0.7	2.9
Sporting Goods	205.4	−0.7	0.2
Steel Mill Products	367.1	0.0	1.0
Struc. Clay Products	291.8	0.3	2.6
Switchgear	277.5	0.5	0.8
Tires, Tubes	241.2	0.2	−0.2
Transformers	234.4	0.6	3.8
Trucks	332.3	0.2	1.8
Valves	104.3	0.2	3.2
Wire, Cable	203.2	−0.5	0.0
Wiring Devices	360.3	0.2	3.1

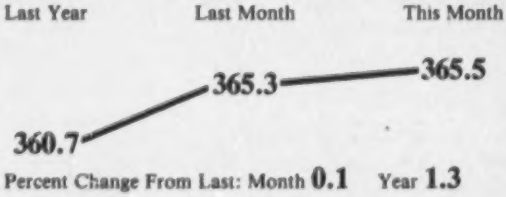
At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



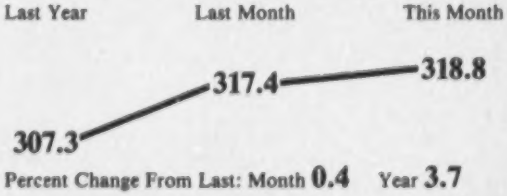
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **1.5**

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



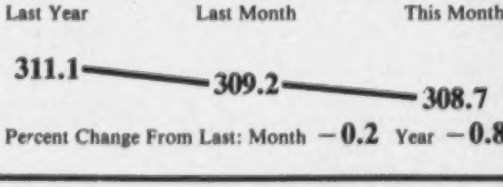
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **1.3**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.4** Year **3.7**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **−0.2** Year **−0.8**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	524.6B	0.8	7.9
Federal Grants	97.0B	5.3	12.1
Durable Purchases	14.5B	1.4	6.6
Consumables	37.5B	1.6	9.6
Services	367.3B	1.9	8.6
Structures	47.3B	0.0	21.3
Salaries, Wages	267.8B	1.8	7.9
Surplus	47.6B	−12.7	0.4
Employment	13.330M	0.0	1.7

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JULY 1985

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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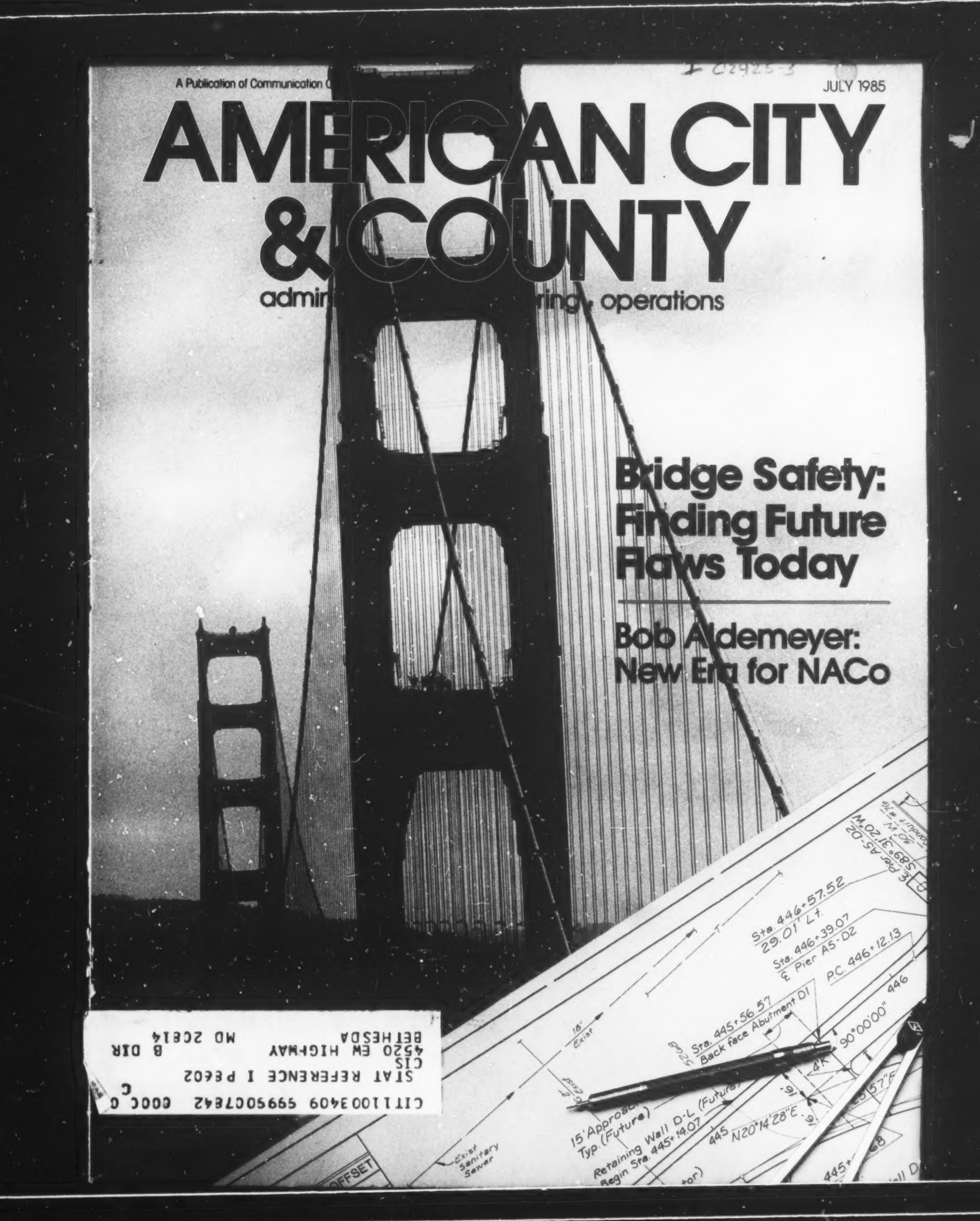
Bridge Safety: Finding Future Flaws Today

Bob Aldemeyer: New Era for NACo



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About the Cover

New techniques for the inspection of bridges will help local governments repair and maintain their spans more accurately and economically, as discussed beginning on page 28. (Golden Gate Bridge photo by Norma Watts; blueprint photo by Jeff Licata, blueprint courtesy of CH2M HILL.)

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AC&C's 1985 Salary And Benefits Survey

With benefits costing local governments $50 billion annually, officials are finding creative ways to stretch their expense accounts.

By Ken Anderberg, Editor

Employee benefits, not salaries, will be an important future concern for public officials struggling to stretch shrinking budgets. Benefits such as medical and dental coverage, and pension and retirement plans are costing state and local governments as much as $50 billion annually, or more than 22 percent of gross salaries and wages. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, that percentage is much higher in several states, reaching 33.6 percent in Washington, 33.5 percent in New York and 31.1 percent in Oregon.

Public employees are offered a variety of benefit programs, with the types and payment responsibilities differing in each region of the country. Among the major benefits offered are Social Security, retirement, unemployment insurance, workers' disability compensation insurance, life insurance, and health, hospitalization and dental insurance. Not included in the Census Bureau statistics, but also impacting on local government payrolls are paid vacations, sick leave and holidays. Bureau statistics indicate that retirement plans alone account for 11 percent of total payrolls, while health and hospital insurance amounts to 5 percent.

Concerns about benefits are growing, both by employers and their employees. Local governments are being challenged by escalating costs of benefits and increasing demands for more perks. Meanwhile, employees face the possibilities of paying taxes on their benefits and of having to shoulder more of the financial responsibility.

Many employers are drawing the line on these "extras," where costs for such items as major medical insurance are bleeding budgets dry. One alternative being considered is the "cafeteria plan," where a list of optional benefits is offered, with the employee choosing from that list until a pre-determined cost ceiling is reached. This concept also allows employees to piece together the best benefit package for their particular needs, rather than having perks that may be useless to them.

Employee benefits are a key element of the just-completed *American City & County* annual Salary and Benefits Survey. Results of this national polling of local government officials show definite trends in how communities of varying sizes and in different regions of the country reward public employees. For instance, a public works director in the Southwest is less likely to receive fully paid major medical coverage than one in a Mid-Atlantic state; and a parks and recreation director would be more apt to have fully paid dental insurance in a city or county of 40,000 population than in a community of 500,000.

The 1985 survey was mailed to 1,250 of the magazine's readers, including city managers, public works directors, city administrators, finance directors, county managers, and directors or superintendents of water, street, wastewater, solid waste, traffic, and parks and recreation departments. More than 50 percent of those receiving the survey

Mean Average Salary by Community Population

Title	Under 25,000	25,000-99,999	100,000-499,999
City Manager	$34,219	$50,000	$56,667
County Manager	36,667	38,000	55,000
City Administrator	37,143	*	50,000
Director, Finance	28,571	38,571	*
Director, Public Works	29,231	40,000	55,000
Director, Streets/Highways	23,478	27,333	30,000
Director, Water Supply	25,625	40,000	43,333
Director, Wastewater Treatment	23,333	30,769	50,000
Director, Water/Wastewater	26,087	30,000	*
Director, Traffic/Transportation	*	40,000	42,000
Director, Solid Waste/Sanitation	25,000	29,167	35,000
Director, Parks/Recreation	28,750	32,222	32,857

**Insufficient data available*

Mean Average Salary by Region

Title	Northeast	Mid-Atlantic	Southeast	Midwest	Southwest	North Central	Western	National Average
City Manager	$33,636	$31,111	$37,083	$40,556	$46,667	$33,333	$37,143	$37,160
Director, Finance	40,000	35,000	32,500	36,000	*	*	23,333	34,286
Director, Public Works	34,000	27,500	42,500	34,545	38,000	35,000	40,000	36,500
Director, Streets/Highways	23,636	35,000	30,000	26,250	24,000	*	26,667	26,596
Director, Water Supply	31,250	*	33,333	30,000	*	*	37,500	32,143
Director, Wastewater Treatment	30,000	26,667	26,667	28,000	42,500	26,667	26,667	27,931
Director, Water/Wastewater	28,571	30,000	26,667	27,273	*	*	25,000	27,188
Director, Solid Waste/ Sanitation	37,500	40,000	30,000	30,000	*	*	42,500	33,571
Director, Parks/Recreation	27,500	38,000	27,500	30,000	30,000	*	36,667	31,250

Insufficient data available

responded, although only 431 returns were tabulated due to omissions on the completed questionnaires.

Surveys were sent to readers in all seven geographic regions of the country, and to communities of all sizes. Respondents were asked to designate which area they resided in, the population of their city or county and their job title. Failure to provide any one of these three vital pieces of information invalidated the response. The *American City & County* survey should not be considered a scientific analysis of public employee salaries and benefits. Salary levels, for instance, are affected in cases where there is a disproportionate number of responses from large communities included.

A total of 47 states are represented in the survey data. Leading in total responses was the Midwest with 98 questionnaires returned. The Southeast was next with 85 samples, followed by the Northeast (80), West (71), Southwest (39), Mid-Atlantic (34) and North Central (24).

More than 51 percent of the survey responses are from communities with populations under 25,000. Mid-sized communities of 25,000 to 99,999 people comprise more than 30 percent of the sample, and cities and counties of more than 100,000 population make up the remaining 18 percent.

Salaries for the 12 job titles calculated from the survey show a consistent rise as the population size of the community increases. Thus, pay scales for directors of street and highway departments have a mean average of $23,478 for cities and counties with populations under 25,000 (small), $27,333 for populations of 25,000 to 99,999 (medium), and $30,000 for 100,000-plus population (large).

City administrators reported the highest mean average salary level for small communities. City managers were highest in the medium and large categories. Forty-seven percent of the city managers reporting say they are paid less than $35,000 annually; the majority of city administrators (55.6 percent) placed their income in the $25,000-34,999 range.

Salaries, on average, are similar in various regions, with those in the Southwest the highest.

Nearly half (48 percent) of the public works directors included in the survey say they earn less than $35,000 per year, and another 34 percent placed their income between $35,000 and $45,000. Other job titles, with the percentage earning less than $35,000 in parentheses, include: finance director (47.6); parks and recreation director (62.5); street and highway director (89.4); water supply director (60.7); wastewater director (75.9); water and wastewater director (93.8); traffic and transportation director (30.8); and solid waste and sanitation director (67.9).

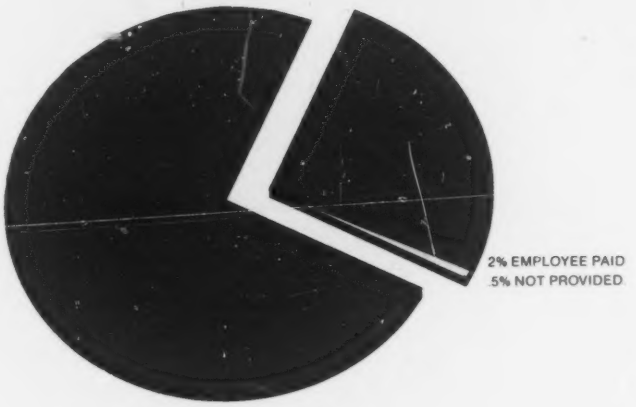
In contrast to the 1984 Salary and Benefits Survey, when respondents indicated salaries in the West were considerably higher than the national average, this year's survey shows more balance from region to region. The highest mean average of nine representative titles occurs in the Southwest, but there is less than a 10 percent difference between salaries there and in the North Central region, which has the lowest mean average.

For public works directors, respondents in the Southeast reported the highest salaries, with the lowest registered in the Mid-Atlantic. Also, the Southwest shows the highest pay for city managers and the Mid-Atlantic the lowest.

While salaries showed little change from region to region, interesting data was reported in the benefits side of the *American City & County* survey. For instance, dental insurance is apparently an important perk in the West since the percentage of respondents indicating they had fully paid dental plans is nearly twice the national average (58.5 percent to 33 percent). Other benefits trends include:

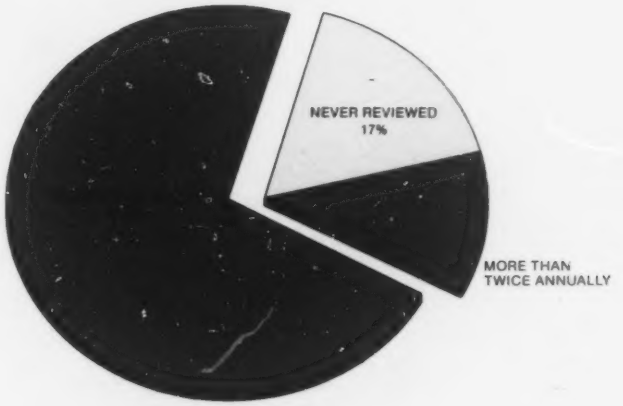
- 73 percent of employees surveyed

Major Medical Insurance



Dental Insurance.

Employee Reviews



receive fully paid major medical coverage, while a scant 0.5 percent have no medical insurance;

- the larger the community, the less likely an employee will have fully paid major medical, with the percentage of employees having fully paid major medical highest in areas with populations under 10,000 (79.1) and lowest where the population exceeds 500,000 (47.4);
- dental plans also are less likely to be fully paid in larger cities or counties;
- life insurance coverage is fairly even throughout the country, except in the Northeast where only 54.9 percent of respondents said they receive fully paid benefits, as opposed to the national average of 71.3 percent;
- the possibility of having a fully paid pension plan declines in larger communities, but a disproportionate 35 percent of the smallest areas offer no pension plan at all;
- community size has a relatively minor impact on the availability of fully paid retirement plans, but there is some variation according to region, with the Southwest the lowest at 21.6 percent and the North Central the highest at 47.8 percent;
- more than 47 percent of local governments offer no vacation days after six months of employment, but another 41.5 percent allow five to nine days after the same length of time;
- the vast majority of public employees surveyed (72.7 percent) receive 10 days to 14 days of vacation after their first year, with that percentage increasing to 76.2 after three years of work;
- when asked if vacation days could be carried over from one year to the next, 67.9 percent said yes;
- most responses (65.2 percent) indicated they are allowed 10 days to 14 days of sick leave after one year on the job and 42.9 percent put that amount at 20 days or more after three years on the job;
- the vast majority (92.3 percent) said sick leave can be accrued from year to year; and
- 70.9 percent of respondents said they are given an annual job review, 8.8 percent are reviewed twice a year, and 17 percent are never evaluated. □

Salaries for public works directors are highest in the Southeast and lowest in the Mid-Atlantic.

Comparable Worth Emerging As Women's Issue of the '80s

Demands for comparable pay are being made at the bargaining table, through administrative complaints and in some cases through court suits.

By Cathy Dombrowski, Washington Correspondent

Recently, the city of Los Angeles agreed to spend $12 million during the next four years to increase salary levels in female-dominated jobs. Officials in Colorado Springs, Colorado, are raising the pay scale for clerical workers. And school districts in Tucson, Arizona, Sacramento and Manhattan Beach, California, and the governments of Sonoma County, California, and Seattle, Washington, are collecting information or conducting job evaluation studies on the question of pay differences between female-dominated job categories and jobs held primarily by men.

Comparable worth, pay equity and job evaluation studies are some of the terms that local officials are learning as they deal with increasing complaints about pay differences. While comparable worth has been an issue since 1974, there is a greater concern today as female employees are escalating their demands for better treatment from the pay master.

Demands for comparable pay — similar wages for jobs that are different but that have equal value — are being made at the bargaining table, through administrative complaints and, in some cases, through court suits. The bases for action are Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the Equal Pay Act, both of which bar discrimination in compensation. In 1981, the Supreme Court ruled that Title VII covers cases of lower pay for female-dominated jobs, if the lower pay is because the workers are primarily female.

Much of the impetus in placing this issue squarely in the laps of local government officials is being provided by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). "As recent settlements have demonstrated," says AFSCME President Gerald McEntee, "the momentum in eliminating sex bias from public sector wage scales is now irreversible."

Randy Arndt, speaking for the National League of Cities, explains that comparable worth is "emerging as a major women's issue in the 1980s" and that local officials should be prepared to deal with the situation. Through its national municipal policy, the league supports the principle of comparable pay for jobs of comparable worth, utilizing job standard and job classification systems.

The cost of providing comparable salaries is estimated at 4 percent of the personnel budget.

The Los Angeles comparable worth agreement, which was negotiated by AFSCME, is a "landmark breakthrough" for women, says Mayor Tom Bradley, who notes that the settlement avoided the pressure of a court decision. The agreement was approved 12 to 1 by the City Council after six months of negotiations with the union. AFSCME had lodged a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against the city but did not file suit because of the willingness of city officials to negotiate.

AFSCME Local 2626 President Harriet Newton notes that the union was prepared to go to court to achieve pay equity. "By utilizing the bargaining table, however, we proved that the collective bargaining process is one of the most effective and least costly means to achieve parity for women," she says. In similar situations in New York City and Nassau County, New York, AFSCME has filed suits against the local governments.

Under the current pay scale in Los Angeles, city jobs held largely by women — clerks, secretaries and librarians — earn an average of $1,310 per month, compared to the $1,492 per month average salary for male-dominated jobs such as gardeners, warehouse workers and garage attendants. Salaries for entry level jobs held primarily by women are about 15 percent lower than entry-level jobs held predominantly by men.

During the next three years, Los Angeles will raise the pay scales of female-dominated job categories to levels comparable to those of male-dominated jobs. Affected by the increases are about 3,900 employees, including more than 3,000 women. City Administrative Officer Keith Comrie says the total cost of the negotiated salary increases will constitute one-half of one percent of the city's proposed $2.1 billion budget.

City Council member Joy Picus, a leading proponent of comparable worth, says the agreement was reached "because it was right to do," not because of fear of a court suit. Los Angeles, she says, is the first city to make salary adjustments through collective bargaining, without an employee strike or a court or legislative mandate. Calling it a major achievement, Picus notes that the agreement was put together by the efforts of "a responsible and rea-

sonable union that kept the real goals in mind, by a reasonable staff, and by sensitive and understanding public officials."

Not all such pay settlements are voluntary, however. In Washington state, AFSCME went to court to win a ruling that sex discrimination in state agencies was "pervasive, intentional and in violation of the law." The ruling found that the state was negligent in improving salaries of female-dominated jobs despite a 1974 study that found individuals in these jobs were being paid 20 percent less than those in jobs having the same evaluation points but held primarily by men.

Generally, the cost of providing comparable salaries is equal to 4 percent of a local government's personnel budget. However, the cost to the state of Washington will be more than 25 percent of the state payroll, since the court directed that back pay be paid to those people because of the discrimination. Otherwise, closing the wage gap would have cost an estimated 5 percent of the state payroll.

But all is not smooth sailing for proponents of comparable worth. Among the obstacles is opposition by the Reagan administration.

Clarence Thomas, chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, says his panel is examining comparable worth issues to determine if they "are cognizable under the EEO statutes. Our preliminary view is that they are not." In Thomas' view, the equal pay law covers similar jobs requiring equal skills, effort and responsibility, which are performed under similar conditions. Comparable worth, on the other hand, involves the comparison of different jobs.

Title VII addresses "intentional, sex-based wage discrimination," Thomas says, "and rarely can it be shown that an employer, in the comparable worth context, intentionally discriminated against women in assigning wages." An employer's claim that wages are based on market factors are sufficient defense against comparable worth charges, Thomas says.

The question of intentional discrimination and the role of market factors in setting different wages for female-dominated and male-dominated job categories are key factors cited by a majority of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in accepting a draft report that terms comparable worth an "unsound and misplaced concept." According to Commission Chairperson Clarence Pendelton Jr., "the more attention that is focused on this theory, the less credibility it will have."

Based on a consultation with 16 experts — eight of whom support comparable worth and eight who oppose the concept — the commission agrees that there is a wage gap between men and women. Census Bureau statistics for 1980 show that, at most, women earn 71.5 percent as much as men, a figure achieved by women employed in local government.

But, argues Pendleton, the gap stems "at least in significant part, from a variety of causes having nothing to do with sex-based wage discrimination." These other factors include socialization, women's educational choices in light of child-bearing and child-rearing functions, and the intermittency of women's labor force participation.

Average Earnings of Year-Round Full-Time Female Workers in the U.S.

(By Employment Sector and Race as a Percentage of the Earnings of All Men)

Employment Sector	White Women	Black Women	Hispanic Women	All Women
Federal government	63.1%	62.2%	a	62.8%
State and local government	72.7	64.8	62.9%	71.5
Private sector	56.8	50.2	47.9	56.0
All sectors	59.2	54.7	51.2	58.7

a) Information not available
Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 132, Table 58, U.S. Census Bureau, 1980

"Since the wage gap is not entirely due to discrimination," the commission's report says, "it is wrong to try to eradicate that gap in the name of anti-discrimination." The report further contends that "things that are beyond an employer's control should not be the basis for a finding that an employer has discriminated. Similarly, if discrimination in education has affected the job choices of women, the remedy lies in eliminating the discrimination in education."

Commissioners Mary Frances Berry and Blandina Cardenas Ramirez disagree with the report's conclusions, which they say were reached without sufficient fact-finding. They concede that the experts disagree on whether the wage gap is attributable to discrimination, but insist that if any part of the gap at a particular establishment is based on historic or current job segregation, "the employer should be held accountable for a remedy."

Berry and Ramirez argue that discrimination in wages and salaries should be treated in the same manner as other types of employment discrimination proscribed under Title VII. Where an employer intentionally uses unequal pay scales for jobs that require equal skills, effort and responsibility, they contend that the employer has violated Title VII and a remedy should be imposed.

The suggestion that the pay gap will close as more women enter less traditional, higher-paying jobs is not acceptable to Berry and Ramirez, who note that this solution does not help those who are already working in lower paying fields. They may have chosen the job depending on what was open to them, but they did not choose to earn lower pay, the commissioners say. Moreover, they add, just because women may choose to continue to work in certain jobs, there is no justification for women to continue to suffer a loss in earnings in these jobs as a result of pay discrimination.

A major tenet of the commission report is that the setting of wages is not, and cannot be divorced from the forces of labor supply and demand. "These factors heavily influence the setting of pay in many jobs and play an important role in setting wages for virtually all other jobs," the report states. "Merit, seniority, quality or quantity of production, and collective bargaining also affect wages.

Pendleton suggests that job evaluation can establish wage-setting policies within a given organization that are satisfactory to management and employees, "but it is unworkable as a substitute for the market, a result sought by proponents of comparable worth."

Berry and Ramirez note that labor supply and demand is an integral part of establishing wages, but note that a history of segregation in which certain jobs were open or closed on the basis of race or sex is the setting in which labor supply and demand have operated. While a pay disparity may not be proof of illegal discrimination, they add, it is evidence that can be weighed along with other factors by decision-makers in the courts and administrative agencies.

"Eliminating invidious discrimination in wages and salaries is of crucial importance to American families," say the dissenting commissioners, "both those in which women head the household and in which both parents must work to make ends meet. Ensuring fairness in pay scales should be central to any employer's interest in employee morale and productivity." □

The **Municipal Cost Index** increased 0.2 percent for the month to 335.2, the largest increase since October 1984. The index rise was caused by a 0.4 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index** and a 0.2 percent increase in the **Producer Price Index.**

The **Construction Cost Index** remained at 365.2 for the month due to stable construction and building material prices. In this month's marketbasket, commodities showing the largest increases included asphalt roofing, fuel oil no. 2, generator sets, plumbing fixtures, and sand and gravel. □

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	147.2	0.3	1.9
Apparel	181.4	0.3	1.5
Asphalt Roofing	414.3	2.4	4.6
Books	131.3	0.1	4.1
Chemicals, Industrial	335.8	−0.3	−2.8
Coal	548.2	−0.2	1.1
Concrete Products	316.9	0.6	2.6
Construction Machinery	361.2	−0.2	1.0
Diesel Fuel	638.6	0.3	−7.8
Electric Components	198.7	0.1	4.4
Electric Lamps	338.7	−0.6	−2.8
Electric Power	449.4	0.3	4.1
Engines, I.C.	347.8	0.3	3.1
Fans, Blowers	358.8	0.4	4.9
Fertilizers, Mixed	259.7	0.2	−3.7
Floor Coverings	192.4	0.2	2.2
Flow Instruments	100.1	0.2	N/A
Footwear	255.3	−0.1	1.5
Foundry Products	362.9	−0.3	0.9
Fuel Oil No. 2	675.9	1.9	−5.2
Furniture	305.0	0.5	3.0
Gasoline	545.2	5.5	−4.6
Generator Sets	350.6	0.1	3.3
Glass	220.5	−0.3	−4.2
Glass Containers	371.4	0.2	3.7
Gypsum Products	317.8	−1.0	−10.0
Hardware	305.0	0.3	3.5
Heating Equipment	257.8	0.2	3.0
HVAC Controls	122.0	−1.8	1.4
LP Gas	529.1	−0.2	−16.1
Lubricants	372.2	0.4	0.5
Lumber	340.5	−1.3	N/A
Metal Fabrications	314.3	0.0	1.6
Millwork	309.5	−0.1	0.7
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.4	0.1	0.5
Mowers	261.0	0.2	1.6
Natural Gas	1379.7	−0.2	−1.7
Office Machines	154.9	0.7	0.3
Paint	280.4	0.3	4.4
Paper	303.6	0.0	1.1
Passenger Cars	226.9	0.0	2.2
Plumbing Fixtures	311.3	1.1	3.3
Plywood	222.7	−0.4	−8.6
Portland Cement	359.4	−0.7	2.2
Residual Fuel	1087.9	−2.2	−1.7
Sand, Gravel	308.3	1.1	4.9
Sanitary Papers	374.8	0.2	4.1
Soaps, Detergents	273.1	0.0	3.3
Sporting Goods	205.5	0.0	0.3
Steel Mill Products	367.5	0.1	0.9
Struc. Clay Products	291.7	0.0	2.4
Switchgear	276.7	−0.3	−0.1
Tires, Tubes	239.1	−0.9	−1.8
Transformers	232.6	−0.8	2.6
Trucks	332.2	0.0	−0.6
Valves	104.4	0.1	2.5
Wire, Cable	203.4	0.1	−1.3
Wiring Devices	360.4	0.0	2.7

At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year 330.8 — Last Month 334.7 — This Month 335.2

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 1.3

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year 361.9 — Last Month 365.2 — This Month 365.2

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.0 Year 1.0

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 308.8 — Last Month 318.8 — This Month 320.1

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.4 Year 3.7

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 311.4 — Last Month 308.7 — This Month 309.3

Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year −0.6

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	539.8B	2.9	9.1
Federal Grants	97.0B	5.3	12.1
Durable Purchases	14.5B	1.4	6.6
Consumables	37.5B	1.6	9.6
Services	367.2B	1.9	8.6
Structures	43.7B	−3.2	17.2
Salaries, Wages	267.8B	1.8	7.9
Surplus	55.8B	17.2	9.0
Employment	13.235M	−0.1	1.0

CR425-3

A Publication of Communication Channels Inc.

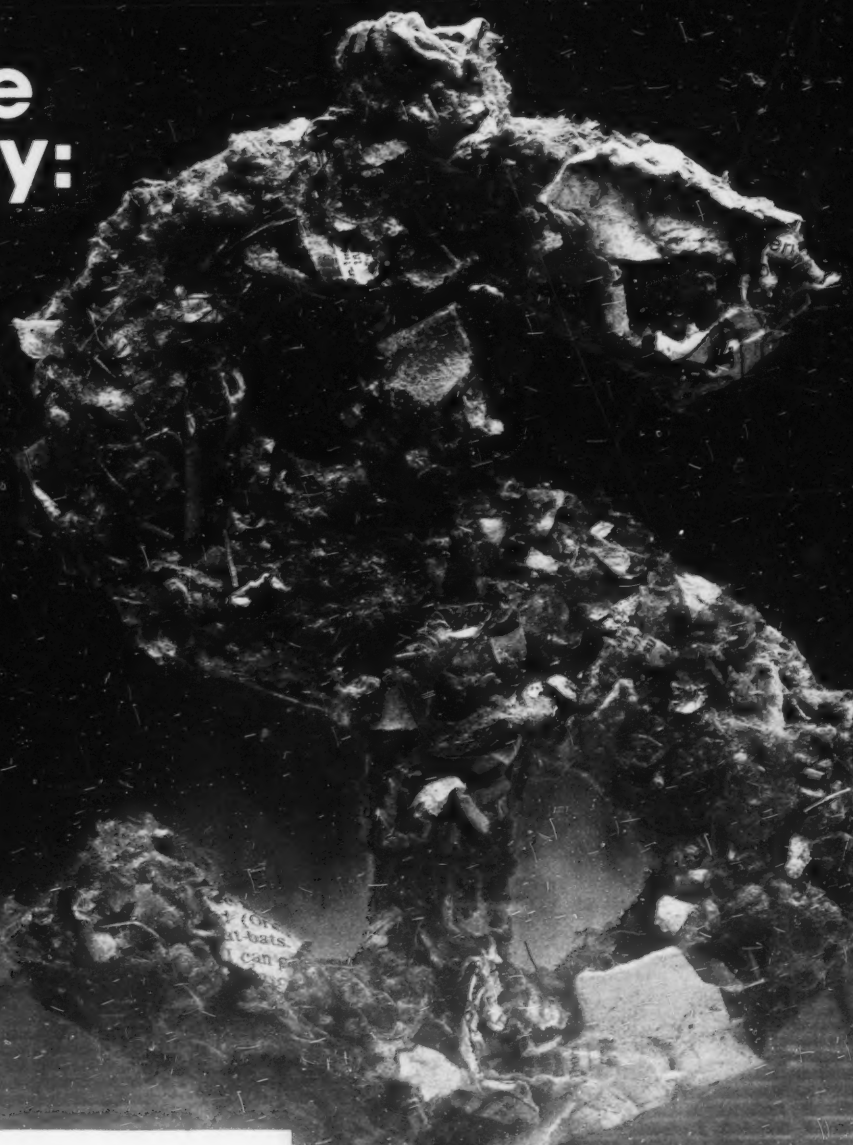
AUGUST 1985

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration · engineering · operations

Resource Recovery: Trash To Cash

Raising Revenues: Which Way To Go?



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AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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BPA

August 1985

Vol. 100, No. 8

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Solid waste disposal has taken on a new twist, as waste-to-energy facilities gain in popularity. Financial considerations are an important ingredient, both because of the enormous costs involved and due to the revenue generated by tipping fees and energy production. Story on page 28. (Refuse-derived fuel forming the dollar sign was provided by Combustion Engineering, Inc. Photograph by Jeff Licata.)

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ISSN 0149-337X

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.4 percent for the month to 336.4, marking the largest increase in the index since November 1983. The **Construction Cost Index** showed the highest increase, rising 0.5 percent.

The **Consumer Price Index** rose 0.4 percent, while the **Producer Price Index** increased 0.2 percent for the month.

In this month's marketbasket, commodities showing the highest increases, included: diesel fuel, electric lamps, fuel oil no. 2, gasoline, lp gas, lumber, natural gas, plywood and portland cement. □

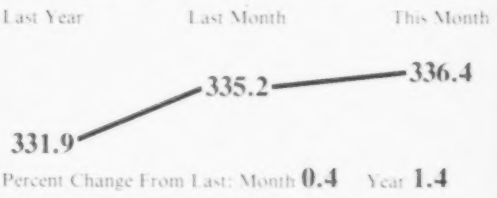
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	147.6	0.3	2.4
Apparel	181.6	0.1	1.0
Asphalt Roofing	414.4	0.0	3.9
Books	131.8	0.4	4.0
Chemicals, Industrial	335.3	−0.1	−2.9
Coal	547.3	−0.2	0.0
Concrete Products	320.2	1.0	3.5
Construction Machinery	362.4	0.3	1.3
Diesel Fuel	661.2	3.5	−3.3
Electric Components	198.7	0.0	3.7
Electric Lamps	344.3	1.7	1.2
Electric Power	448.2	−0.3	3.5
Engines, I.C.	347.7	0.0	2.8
Fans, Blowers	358.9	0.0	3.6
Fertilizers, Mixed	260.6	0.3	−3.3
Floor Coverings	190.6	−0.9	−0.6
Flow Instruments	100.2	0.1	N/A
Footwear	253.9	−0.5	1.0
Foundry Products	362.8	0.0	0.4
Fuel Oil No. 2	702.1	3.9	−3.6
Furniture	305.9	0.3	2.9
Gasoline	576.7	5.8	−1.5
Generator Sets	352.0	0.4	3.5
Glass	221.8	0.6	−1.9
Glass Containers	372.3	0.2	2.9
Gypsum Products	317.5	−0.1	−12.0
Hardware	304.8	−0.1	3.2
Heating Equipment	258.4	0.2	2.4
HVAC Controls	123.2	1.0	3.4
LP Gas	536.3	1.4	−13.3
Lubricants	374.0	0.5	1.2
Lumber	349.9	2.8	N/A
Metal Fabrications	314.7	0.1	1.3
Millwork	310.8	0.4	2.2
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.5	0.0	0.5
Mowers	261.4	0.2	1.6
Natural Gas	1444.6	4.7	2.2
Office Machines	154.9	0.0	0.5
Paint	277.8	−0.9	2.9
Paper	304.6	0.3	1.1
Passenger Cars	228.1	0.5	3.1
Plumbing Fixtures	312.7	0.4	3.7
Plywood	232.1	4.2	−1.4
Portland Cement	365.0	1.6	2.2
Residual Fuel	1058.7	−2.7	−6.4
Sand, Gravel	308.9	0.2	4.4
Sanitary Papers	376.1	0.3	3.4
Soaps, Detergents	273.5	0.1	3.4
Sporting Goods	203.5	−1.0	−1.0
Steel Mill Products	367.3	−0.1	0.7
Struc. Clay Products	291.7	0.0	2.1
Switchgear	277.1	0.1	0.2
Tires, Tubes	239.6	0.2	−1.5
Transformers	232.0	−0.3	2.1
Trucks	316.1	−4.9	−5.6
Valves	104.6	0.2	2.5
Wire, Cable	204.2	0.4	0.7
Wiring Devices	362.4	0.6	2.6

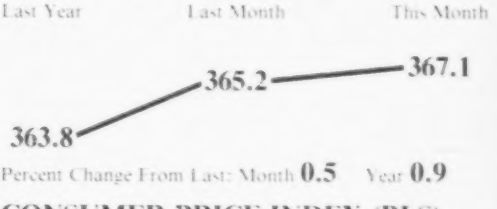
At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



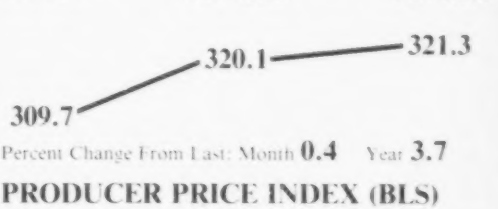
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.4** Year **1.4**

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



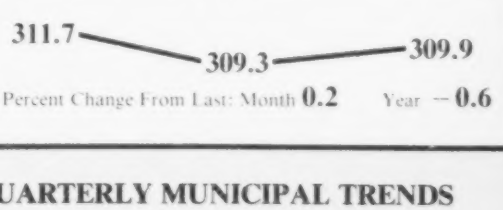
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.5** Year **0.9**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.4** Year **3.7**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.2** Year **−0.6**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	539.7B	2.9	9.0
Federal Grants	97.5B	0.5	7.6
Durable Purchases	14.8B	2.1	6.5
Consumables	37.9B	1.1	6.8
Services	374.6B	2.0	8.2
Structures	45.2B	−1.1	9.2
Salaries, Wages	273.3B	2.1	7.8
Surplus	55.6B	16.8	8.6
Employment	13.310M	0.2	1.4

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A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc

SEPTEMBER 1985

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration · engineering · operations

Drinking Wastewater

Can Transit Survive Without Uncle Sam?

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September 1985 Vol. 100, No. 9

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The reuse of valuable water resources, even to replenish potable supplies, is gaining acceptance in many communities; treated wastewater can be used for a variety of purposes, including for irrigation, industry and drinking. Photography by Bill Roughen of Atlanta, Georgia.

BPA

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ISSN 0149-337X

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.3 percent to 337.4, marking the seventh straight climb in the monthly index. The **Construction Cost Index** had the largest increase for the month, rising 0.5 percent, while the **Consumer Price Index** increased 0.3 percent.

The **Producer Price Index** fell 0.1 percent for the month to 309.5. In this month's marketbasket, commodities showing the largest increases included electric power, furniture, gypsum products, lumber, plywood and trucks. Commodities displaying the largest decreases included fuel oil no. 2, lp gas, natural gas and residual fuel. □

— Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	147.5	-0.1	2.0
Apparel	182.8	0.7	2.5
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Gasoline	587.8	1.9	0.7
Generator Sets	352.0	0.0	3.5
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Glass Containers	374.4	0.6	2.6
Gypsum Products	338.1	6.5	-6.2
Hardware	304.8	0.0	2.9
Heating Equipment	259.6	0.5	2.7
HVAC Controls	124.2	0.8	3.5
LP Gas	522.4	-2.6	-14.9
Lubricants	373.7	-0.1	1.0
Lumber	364.4	4.1	N/A
Metal Fabrications	314.8	0.0	1.2
Millwork	312.3	0.5	2.3
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.5	0.0	0.4
Mowers	261.5	0.0	1.9
Natural Gas	1392.5	-3.6	-2.2
Office Machines	155.0	0.1	0.6
Paint	278.0	0.1	2.6
Paper	304.7	0.0	1.0
Passenger Cars	229.1	0.4	3.8
Plumbing Fixtures	313.1	0.1	3.5
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Portland Cement	363.8	-0.3	3.1
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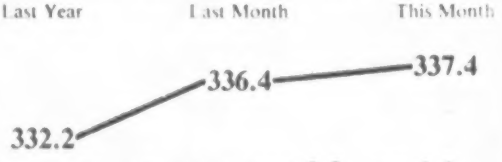
Transformers	232.6	0.3	1.8
Trucks	333.3	5.4	0.7
Valves	104.9	0.3	2.8
Wire, Cable	202.8	-0.7	-0.2
Wiring Devices	361.5	-0.2	1.3

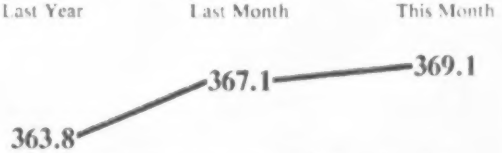
At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



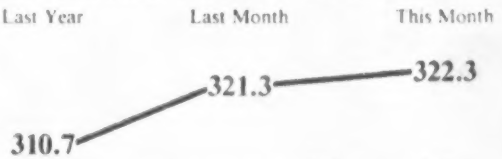
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **1.6**

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



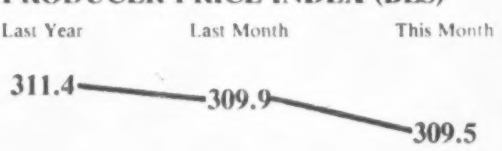
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.5** Year **1.5**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **3.7**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **-0.1** Year **-0.6**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	545.8B	1.1	7.1
Federal Grants	95.1B	-2.0	5.0
Durable Purchases	14.8B	2.1	6.5
Consumables	37.9B	1.1	6.8
Services	374.6B	2.0	8.2
Structures	45.2B	-1.1	9.2
Salaries, Wages	273.3B	2.1	7.8
Surplus	53.7B	-3.4	-0.4
Employment	13.310M	0.2	1.4

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A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc.

OCTOBER 1985

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration · engineering · operations

Parks & Recreation: Accidents and Liability

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Profile of Anchorage Mayor Tony Knowles

Trends for Economic Development

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October 1985 Vol. 100, No. 10

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About the Cover
Liability lawsuits as a result of accidents are becoming a major threat to parks and recreation services and to the dedicated professionals who provide that support. Improving safety in parks and recreation services is the topic of this month's cover story on page 36. (Photograph by Bryant McAfee of Atlanta.)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** fell 0.1 percent for the month to 337.1, marking the first decline in seven months. At the same time, the **Construction Cost Index** dipped by 0.3 percent, and the **Producer Price Index** decreased by 0.2 percent, though both show gains for the year.

On the plus side, the **Consumer Price Index** rose by 0.2 percent to 322.8. Glass, glass containers, HVAC controls, residual fuel, switchgear and cable wire are the commodities in this month's marketbasket that reported the biggest increases, while diesel fuel, fuel oil no. 2, lubricants and lumber displayed the largest decreases. □

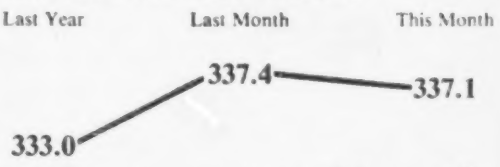
Compiled by Terri Stone

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	147.4	−0.1	1.9
Apparel	182.9	0.1	1.7
Asphalt Roofing	411.5	0	4.3
Books	132.3	−0.4	4.2
Chemicals, Industrial	336.9	0	−2.5
Coal	546.7	−0.1	−0.3
Concrete Products	321.1	0.1	3.4
Construction Machinery	362.3	0.1	1.1
Diesel Fuel	686.9	−4.7	−13.2
Electric Components	197.5	−0.7	1.6
Electric Lamps	344.1	0	3.9
Electric Power	462.5	0.4	2.0
Engines, I.C.	347.2	−0.1	2.3
Fans, Blowers	209.7	0.1	2.5
Fertilizers, Mixed	258.5	0	−3.5
Floor Coverings	191.2	0.4	−0.8
Flow Instruments	99.3	−0.8	N/A
Footwear	297.2	−0.1	2.8
Foundry Products	363.5	0.2	0.3
Fuel Oil No. 2	689.3	−5.8	−17.0
Furniture	308.6	0.5	3.5
Gasoline	588.4	−0.3	2.9
Generator Sets	351.8	−0.1	3.3
Glass	222.8	0.7	−1.5
Glass Containers	378.4	1.1	3.3
Gypsum Products	338.6	0.1	−5.9
Hardware	305.2	0.1	2.7
Heating Equipment	260.5	0.3	2.1
HVAC Controls	127.4	2.6	4.2
LP Gas	520.7	−0.3	−13.6
Lubricants	368.3	−1.4	−0.2
Lumber	354.9	−2.6	N/A
Metal Fabrications	314.6	−0.1	0.9
Millwork	314	0.5	2.3
Motor Vehicle Parts	354.7	0.1	0.4
Mowers	261.7	0.1	1.6
Natural Gas	1382.2	−0.7	−3.7
Office Machines	154.9	−0.1	0.8
Paint	278.5	0.2	1.6
Paper	304	−0.2	−1.2
Passenger Cars	238.8	−0.1	3.5
Plumbing Fixtures	313.1	0	3.4
Plywood	237.6	0.1	0.2
Portland Cement	362.2	−0.4	2.5
Residual Fuel	900.2	0.7	−21.6
Sand, Gravel	309.8	−0.2	4.4
Sanitary Papers	376.7	0.1	2.6
Soaps, Detergents	273.6	0	3.2
Sporting Goods	282.8	0	−1.0
Steel Mill Products	366.1	−0.2	−0.4
Struc. Clay Products	295.8	0	3.3
Switchgear	277.8	0.6	−0.4
Tires, Tubes	238.4	0.3	−2.1
Transformers	231.1	−0.6	0.9
Trucks	333.3	0	0.7
Valves	184.9	0	2.7
Wire, Cable	264	0.6	1.2
Wiring Devices	260.9	−0.2	1.4

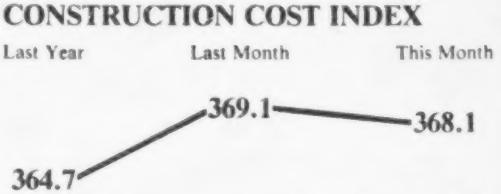
At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



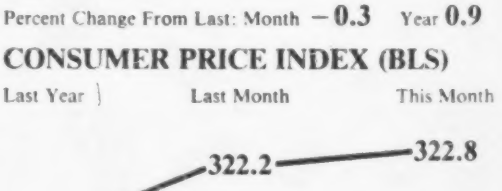
Percent Change From Last: Month −0.1 Year 1.2

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



Percent Change From Last: Month −0.3 Year 0.9

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 3.6

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Percent Change From Last: Month −0.2 Year −1.0

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	545.6B	1.1	7.1
Federal Grants	95.1B	−2.0	5.0
Durable Purchases	14.7B	1.4	5.8
Consumables	38.2B	1.9	7.6
Services	375.6B	2.1	8.4
Structures	44.1B	−3.5	6.5
Salaries, Wages	273.3B	2.6	7.8
Surplus	53.7B	−3.4	−0.4
Employment	13.348M	0.4	1.6